FRIDAY
December 16, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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Vol.53 • No.296

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

T.N. INTERVENTION

Auction of Nataraja idol stopped

SOUTH » PAGE 9

TRANSPARENCY TOOL

Is the RTI legislation fulfilling its purpose?

Activists take stock of the law and hurdles in implementation

OPINION » PAGE 11

CLAMOUR FOR ACTION

Bihar hooch tragedy toll rises to 26; Chief Minister defiant

NEWS » PAGE 12

States can enact laws on uniform civil code: Rijiju

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The States are empowered to enact personal laws that decide issues such as succession, marriage and divorce, in their endeavour to secure a uniform civil code (UCC), Law Minister Kiren Rijiju informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

The Minister made these remarks in a written reply to a question posed by Communist Party of India (Marxist) member John Brittas, asking whether the Centre was aware of the States formulating their own laws with respect to the uniform civil code.

"Yes sir," said Mr. Rijiju. "Article 44 of the Constitution provides that the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

China builds ropeway, roads near tri-junction

Beijing has been improving infrastructure and arranging additional deployments along the eastern sector of LAC; officials say there is lot of activity near Doklam that saw face-off in 2017

Suhasini Haidar
Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

China has set up a ropeway near the Torsa Nala on its side of the India-Bhutan-China tri-junction, and is strengthening roads and other infrastructure along the entire eastern sector, according to defence sources.

In the Yangtse area of Tawang sector in Arunachal Pradesh, which saw a scuffle last week, defence officials with knowledge of the area said China had stepped up patrols some years ago to assert its claims in the area, after finding that their grazers could not move in and out. "What irks the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is that the Indian Army holds the dominating heights which give a complete view of the bowl," noted two of the sources.

Border woes: Kupup in Sikkim is the closest point to Doklam that saw a face-off between Indian and Chinese troops in 2017.

Yangtse ingress points

The Chinese usually patrol two to three times a year, before and after winter, one of the sources said, adding that there are four major ingress points in the Yangtse area which the PLA uses to enter the region. Yangtse is located 30-35 km northeast of Tawang and is at an altitude of around 17,000 feet.

The PLA has installed a ropeway close to the Torsa Nala on their side near the confluence point, and some new anchor points of the ropeway have been recently observed, said one of the sources cited above.

Officials said that there is also lot of activity near the Torsa Nala near Doklam, a location that saw a 73-day standoff between Indian and Chinese forces in 2017.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

NEARBY

City to have four more traffic police stations

BENGALURU
The city will get four more traffic police stations. They will come up at Bellandur, Mahadevapura, Hennur, and Talaghattapura. » Page 2

'BJP diverting attention from voter data theft'

BENGALURU
KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar has alleged that the BJP government was highlighting the November 19 pressure cooker blast in Mangaluru to divert attention of the people from the 'vote gate'. » Page 8

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The amount spent on government ads in the past five years

3,723 In ₹ crore, the amount spent by the government on the advertisement of its policies in the past five years through the Central Bureau of Communication, Minister Anurag Thakur informed Rajya Sabha. The amount spent on advertisements was ₹1,220.8 crore in 2017-18, while ₹1,106.8 crore was spent in 2018-19, ahead of general elections. PTI

More CISF personnel sanctioned to manage passenger traffic

1,400 The number of additional CISF personnel sanctioned to secure the expanding terminal areas of the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi and also to meet the challenge of its growing passenger traffic, officials informed. The enhanced manpower has been recently approved by the Civil Aviation Ministry. PTI

More than 60 lakh public grievances against States and UTs

60.15 In lakh, the number of public grievances received against various States and UTs between 2020 and November this year, the Rajya Sabha was informed. The Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System allows the filing of public grievances against departments of the Central and State government. PTI

Vacancies are being filled through Rozgar Mela this year

1.47 In lakh, the number of appointees inducted by various Central government departments, autonomous bodies and banks among others through Rozgar Melas this year, the Rajya Sabha was informed. Rozgar Melas are expected to continue to act as a catalyst to further employment generation, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said. PTI

Pensioners submitting life certificates using face authentication

3.71 In lakh, the number of Central government pensioners who submitted life certificates using face authentication technology till December 8, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh informed. All Central government pensioners are required to submit a life certificate every year. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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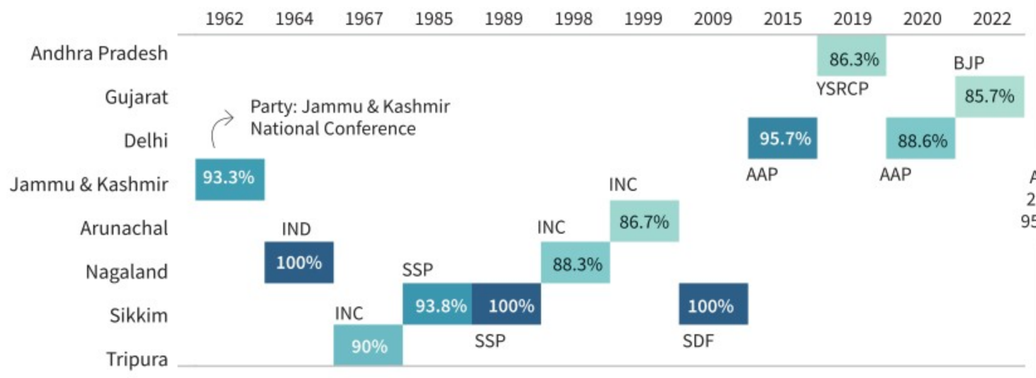
GRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

Dominant electoral performances in State elections

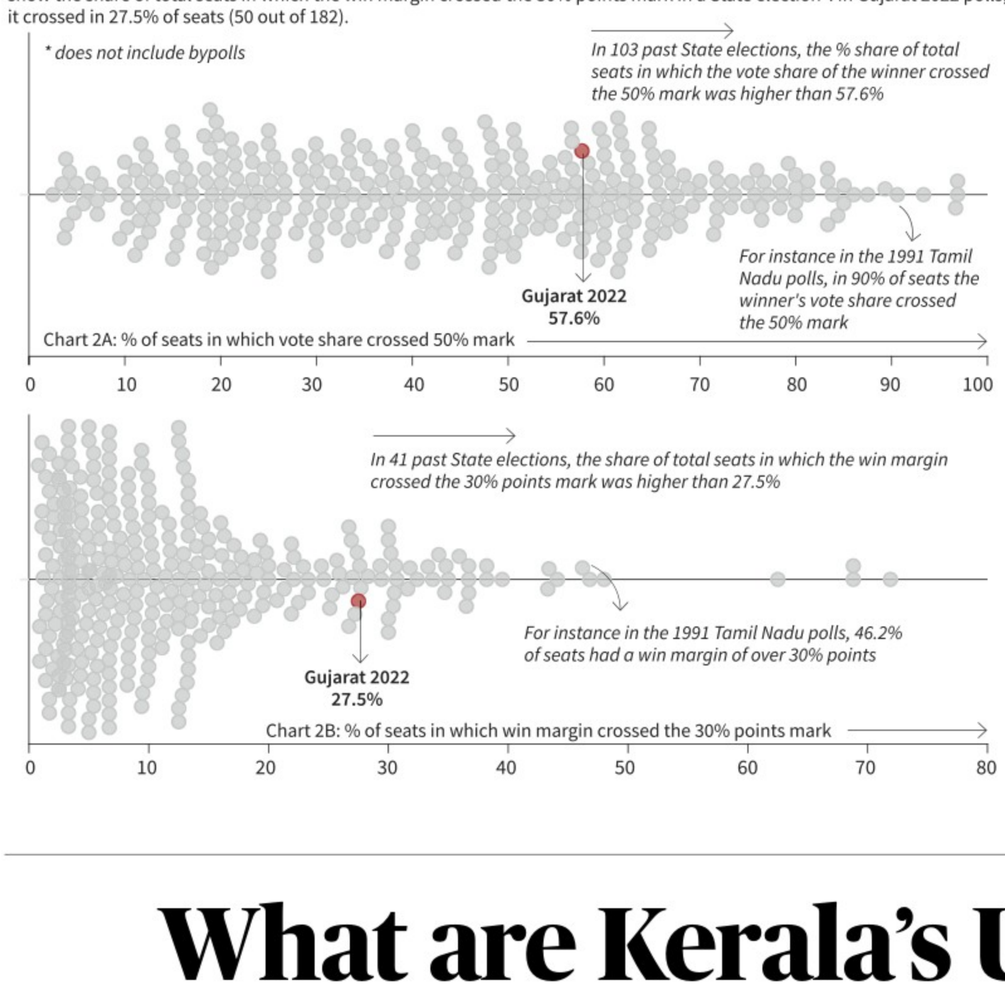
The BJP won Gujarat in 2022 by securing 85.7% seats — a feat surpassed only in eleven other past State elections. While it was a dominant win in terms of seat-share, there were other past elections recording superior victories in terms of win margins and vote shares secured in individual constituencies. By **Rebecca Rose Varghese** and **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

In terms of seat share | The chart shows the Assembly elections across States in which a party* secured 85.7% or more of the total seats that went for polls. Among major States, the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party bagging 86.3% of the seats in Andhra Pradesh in 2019 is the only other instance a party's seat share was higher than the BJP's in Gujarat 2022 polls, in recent years. The other instance was way back in 1962 when Jammu & Kashmir National Conference won 93.35% of the seats that went for polls. There were nine other such elections as shown in chart 1 — but in relatively smaller States. Two such instances came in Delhi's recent two elections, both swept by the Aam Aadmi Party

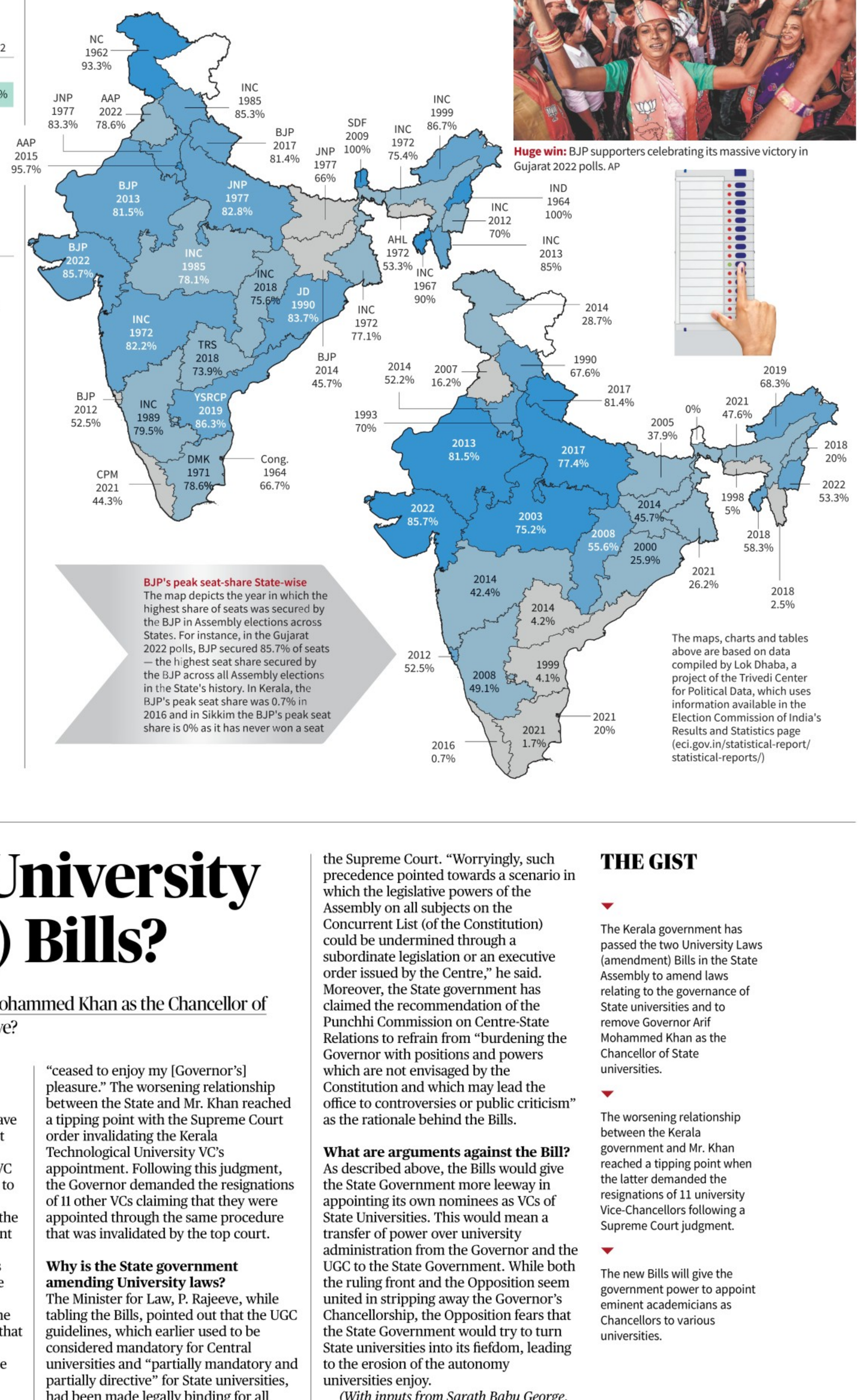
** a single party, not an alliance*

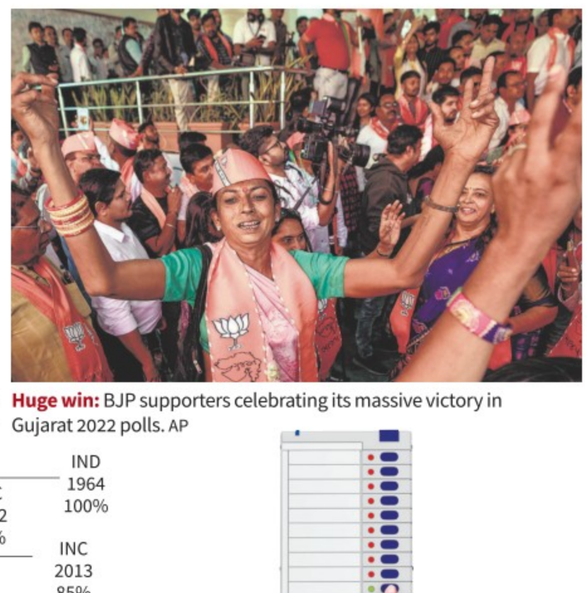


In terms of vote share and win margins | The chart 2A shows the share of total seats in which the vote share of the winner crossed the 50% mark in a State election. In Gujarat 2022 polls, it crossed in 57.6% of seats (105 out of 182). The chart 2B show the share of total seats in which the win margin crossed the 30% points mark in a State election*. In Gujarat 2022 polls, it crossed in 27.5% of seats (50 out of 182).



State-wise peak seat-share secured by any party | The map depicts the year in which the highest share of seats was secured by a party* in Assembly elections across States. For instance, in the Gujarat 2022 polls, BJP secured 85.7% of seats — the highest seat share secured by a party across all Assembly elections in the State's history. In Kerala, given the range of alliances formed by the Left Democratic Front and United Democratic Front, the peak seat share achieved by a party was only 44.3% in 2021 by the CPM





Huge win: BJP supporters celebrating its massive victory in Gujarat 2022 polls. AP

BJP's peak seat-share State-wise
The map depicts the year in which the highest share of seats was secured by the BJP in Assembly elections across States. For instance, in the Gujarat 2022 polls, BJP secured 85.7% of seats — the highest seat share secured by the BJP across all Assembly elections in the State's history. In Kerala, the BJP's peak seat share was 0.7% in 2016 and in Sikkim the BJP's peak seat share is 0% as it has never won a seat

The maps, charts and tables above are based on data compiled by Lok Dhaba, a project of the Trivedi Center for Political Data, which uses information available in the Election Commission of India's Results and Statistics page (eci.gov.in/statistical-report/statistical-reports/)

What are Kerala's University Laws (amendment) Bills?

Why is the Kerala government attempting to remove Governor Arif Mohammed Khan as the Chancellor of State universities? What are the arguments for and against such a move?

Aswin V. N.

The story so far:
The Kerala government has passed the two University Laws (amendment) Bills in the State Assembly to amend laws relating to the governance of State universities and to remove Governor Arif Mohammed Khan as the Chancellor of said universities.

What do the Bills say?
The proposed legislations will amend the statutes of 14 universities established by legislative Acts in Kerala and remove the Governor as the Chancellor. The Bills will give the government power to appoint eminent academicians as Chancellors of various universities, thus ending the Governor's watchdog role in university administration. The Bills also provide provisions to limit the term of the appointed chancellor to five years.

How did the Bill come into being?
Mr. Khan and the State Government have been at loggerheads for months now. It reached a simmering point when the Governor accused Kannur University VC Prof. Gopinath Raveendran of plotting to endanger his life at the 2019 Indian History Congress. This took a turn for the worse when the Governor denied assent to the controversial Lok Ayukta (Amendment) Bill and University Laws (Amendment) Bill passed earlier by the State Assembly. The fallout from this stand-off between the Governor and the Government led to Mr. Khan claiming that he has the power to dismiss Ministers who criticise him. Mr. Khan went to the extent of suggesting that the Chief Minister should take action against Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal as he had "ceased to enjoy my [Governor's] pleasure." The worsening relationship between the State and Mr. Khan reached a tipping point with the Supreme Court order invalidating the Kerala Technological University VC's appointment. Following this judgment, the Governor demanded the resignations of 11 other VCs claiming that they were appointed through the same procedure that was invalidated by the top court.

Why is the State government amending University laws?
The Minister for Law, P. Rajeeve, while tabling the Bills, pointed out that the UGC guidelines, which earlier used to be considered mandatory for Central universities and "partially mandatory and partially directive" for State universities, had been made legally binding for all universities by way of recent rulings by the Supreme Court. "Worryingly, such precedence pointed towards a scenario in which the legislative powers of the Assembly on all subjects on the Concurrent List (of the Constitution) could be undermined through a subordinate legislation or an executive order issued by the Centre," he said. Moreover, the State government has claimed the recommendation of the Punchhi Commission on Centre-State Relations to refrain from "burdening the Governor with positions and powers which are not envisaged by the Constitution and which may lead the office to controversies or public criticism" as the rationale behind the Bills.

What are arguments against the Bill?
As described above, the Bills would give the State Government more leeway in appointing its own nominees as VCs of State Universities. This would mean a transfer of power over university administration from the Governor and the UGC to the State Government. While both the ruling front and the Opposition seem united in stripping away the Governor's Chancellorship, the Opposition fears that the State Government would try to turn State universities into its fiefdom, leading to the erosion of the autonomy universities enjoy.

(With inputs from Sarath Babu George, K.S. Sudhi and G. Anand)

THE GIST

- The Kerala government has passed the two University Laws (amendment) Bills in the State Assembly to amend laws relating to the governance of State universities and to remove Governor Arif Mohammed Khan as the Chancellor of State universities.
- The worsening relationship between the Kerala government and Mr. Khan reached a tipping point when the latter demanded the resignations of 11 university Vice-Chancellors following a Supreme Court judgment.
- The new Bills will give the government power to appoint eminent academicians as Chancellors to various universities.

INBRIEF

Kannada Sahitya Parishat to conduct exams from Dec. 30

The Kannada Sahitya Parishat will conduct a three-day examination in Pravesha, Kava, Jaana and Rathna Kannada from December 30 to January 1, 2023 in 18 centres across the State. The parishat, in a release, said that admission tickets to the candidates have already been dispatched by post. Those who have not got admission tickets have to approach the Kannada Sahitya Parishat in Chamarajpet. For details, visit www.kasapa.in or call080-26623584.

Loyola Technology Center to be launched today

St. Joseph's Boys High School and Old Boys' Association are jointly organising the inaugural programme of Loyola Technology Center (LTC) for Science, Technology, Education and Math, on Friday. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot will be inaugurating the Center. The School, in a release said that LTC believes in nurturing students to explore the world of Science through Technology and use it for the good of others. The vision for the LTC is to engage students and nurture independent thinking, creativity and innovation to make them independent, inquisitive, life long learners and outstanding global citizens, the release stated.

The inaugural event will be held at the School Auditorium from 5 p.m. onwards, according to a release.

Don't avoid filing FIRs on complaints of serious injuries or death due to bad roads: HC

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi directed BBMP to submit data about the number of representations received from the public seeking compensation for the damage caused due to bad roads/potholes, compensation paid, etc.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking note of newspaper reports that the police are not registering first information reports (FIRs) on the complaints of serious injuries and death caused due to potholes and bad roads, the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday directed the Bengaluru police not to hesitate or avoid registration of FIRs by raising technical grounds on such complaints.

FROM THE COURT

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi also directed that the Home Department be made a party to the PIL petition on the city's road conditions as the news reports indicated that the police in a majority of instances were neither responding to the citizens nor registering the FIR.

Bench directed the govt. to provide two quality control teams from the Public Works Department to assist the NHAI to inspect the city's roads as directed by the court

Also, the Bench directed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike to submit data about the number of representations received from the public seeking compensation for the damage caused due to bad roads/potholes, compensation paid, etc.

Meanwhile, the Bench directed the State government to provide two quality control teams from the Public Works Department to assist the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to inspect the city's roads as directed by the court.

The Bench issued the direction as the NHAI informed the court that it requires an additional team on quality control to expedite the process of submitting report to the court on the quality of roadworks.

While the State government will have to provide assistance to the NHAI by December 23, the NHAI has been directed by the Bench to submit the inspection reports within six weeks from December 24.

The court on November 2 directed the NHAI to find out whether the terms of work orders were adhered to by the private contractors engaged by the BBMP while executing the works, and whether the quality of works was satisfactory.

The High Court had found the need for inspection by an independent agency after noticing that the quality of works carried out by the private contractors were assessed and certified only by BBMP engineers.

City to get four new traffic police stations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Catering to emerging traffic pattern on the city roads, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) is now setting up four new traffic police stations for better traffic management at the micro level. These will come up in Bellandur and Mahadevapura in East Division, Hennur in North Division and Talaghattapura in West Division.

The four new traffic police stations will come up in Bellandur and Mahadevapura in East Division, Hennur in North Division, and Talaghattapura in West Division. FILE PHOTO

"Two Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) (Traffic) sub divisions will also be set up at HSR Layout and Vijayanagar soon," M. A. Saleem, Special Commissioner (Traffic) told *The Hindu*.

With the outer areas such as Bellandur and Mahadevapura waking up to traffic snarls again as physical work spaces resume, traffic problems were being frequently reported. A Whitefield Rising member said more police stations will definitely help residents of the area.

"One of the things we had requested for was a Whitefield division. We were under East Bengaluru. It's a massively large area. When the Whitefield DCP division started, we saw how things got better. A new traffic division brings in much more centrality. Even with a measure like not allowing heavy vehicles on ORR, you can see the difference. Our first Whitefield rising protest in 2015 was about heavy vehicles choking State highway 35 that goes through Varthur village. Traffic police had stopped it, but didn't continue with it. Seven years later, it has been implemented," said the member.

"I still don't think they understand how bad it is in the outer areas - chaos with the wrong side driving, BMTC buses not stopping in the right stop, etc. We welcome focus on outer areas, but more needs to be done on enforcement of the rules," the member added. In the North Division, there are now only four traffic police stations and the new one is expected to bring in more policing to the areas of Hennur, Thanisandra, K.G. Halli and others. "Many of these areas did not have much traffic policing all these days. But, it will lessen the burden on Yelahanka traffic police station," said Mr. Saleem.

As the population of Hennur has increased, residents feel that a new traffic station would be helpful. "The population here has grown and if all the logistics are properly worked out, then it will be very beneficial," said Muniraju, a resident of Hennur.

With Kanakapura Road passing through, Talaghattapura residents had a long standing demand for a separate traffic police station in the locality. "The Konanakunte junction has now become more problematic than Silk Board junction and there are also other main roads like Vasanthapura main road which need more regulation. The new police station would help with such issues, mainly with respect to human resources," said Vajapeyam Srivatsa, of Changemakers of Kanakapura. Kala Krishnaswamy, DCP Traffic, East Divisionpart said a new police station will definitely help in regulating the traffic as there will be more staff on the ground.

Two arrested for stealing bikes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Varthur police have arrested two bike lifters and recovered 10 stolen bikes and a car worth ₹5 lakh from them. The accused Srinivasa, 22, and Waseem Akram, 23, used to move around residential areas and steal bikes parked in front of the house. The accused would then ride the bikes to Hosur and rural areas and sell the bikes for throwaway prices. Based on a bike theft complaint, the police kept a watch and track down the accused and arrested them.

Special services for PRM and hidden disabilities at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has introduced special services for Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM) and those with hidden disabilities.

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) operator of the airport said the initiatives are particularly for persons on wheelchairs or reduced mobility and visually impaired individuals.

Entry Gate 5 at departures will be open for wheelchair users and persons with reduced mobility. These persons can now utilise designated drop-off space at Lane 1 at departures and also request for priority check-in and a spot in the designated security check lane.

For visually impaired passengers, Braille menus have been introduced at all food establishments. It said that KIA is now a Sunflower Airport.

"The globally recognised Hidden Disabilities Sunflower initiative is now introduced at the airport. The programme is designed to discreetly help passengers with hidden disabilities to navigate public places. Hidden disabilities do not have physical signs and may not be obvious. For example, a person with anxiety, diabetes or other such conditions is considered a person with a hidden disability. Under the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower programme, KIA has introduced the Sunflower Lanyard," BIAL said.

Any individual who may need additional support from the airport staff may opt to pick up the lanyard from the Care by KIA service kiosks.

With this lanyard, such persons can identify themselves for the airport staff to approach them and help them," it added.

In addition to this, some of the employees at the airport are now trained in sign language to help passengers with hearing and speech disabilities. The staff will also offer additional support, such as extending their time and assisting in guiding them through airport procedures.

SC agrees to State request for time to submit OBC quota report for BBMP poll

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to a request by Karnataka government for time till March 31, 2023 for its dedicated commission to submit a report on OBC reservation for elections to Bengaluru's civic body, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Appearing before a Bench led by J. S. Abdul Nazeer, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for Karnataka, said the commission's work was under way.

The Supreme Court had paved the way for the BBMP elections two years after its previous term came to an end.

The elections are crucial and is seen by many as a precursor to the Karnataka Assembly election due in 2023. Critics argue that the elections have been postponed deliberately by the ruling BJP to fortify the positions of its MLAs, who have been calling the shots in Bengaluru in the absence of a civic body. Bengaluru contributes 12.5% of the seats in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and over 60% of the State's revenue annually.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client viz., **Sri. GANGADHARA V** intend to purchase **Site No.12,** formed in Converted **Sy No.121/3,** Situated at :**KITHAGANUR VILLAGE, in the Layout known as SAKETH LAYOUT, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore** having composite property "E" Swathu No.50200400500421676, issued by Kithaganur Grama Panchayathi, Measuring East to West 25 Feet & North to South 47 Feet, in all totally measuring **1,175 Square Feet,** together with residential building standing thereon Consisting of Ground Floor having 1052 Sq feet of built up area and First Floor having 1052 Sq feet of built up area with RCC Roofing, Granite Tiles Flooring, Wooden Doors & Windows with all civic amenities and bounded on:-

East by : Site No.11;
West by : Site No.13;
North by : 30 Feet Road;
South by: Private Property

From Present Owner Sri. SANTHOSH.S, S/o. Sri. Shanmugam, Any persons having any claim or interest in or to the said property or any part thereof through sale, agreement, sale deed, exchange, mortgage, gift, trust, inheritance, bequest, possession, lease, lien, easement or otherwise is required to forward their claim to the said property, to the undersigned, along with relevant supporting documents thereof, within **10 (Ten) days** from this date.

In the absence of any claims within the above said period, He shall be deemed that, there are no such claims or that if there are any claims and they have not been made, it shall be deemed to have been waived and a valid and binding conveyance will be executed in my client's favour without any further reference in this regard.

P. NAGAMUNI REDDY,
Advocate, SNN Associates,
No. 248, 2nd Floor, 10th Main, 1st Block, 100 Feet Road, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru - 560043,
M : 9945159840 & 9945080996

Government of Karnataka
(PWD Division Raichur)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION RAICHUR
Telephone No. : 08532-225778 & 234747

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION -(KW- 1, 2, 3 & 4)

THESE WORKS ARE GENARAL, SC & ST CONTRACTORS

1) Notification No & Date: PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2022-23/5015 Date: 14-12-2022 2) Name of work's: Raichur District Total 30 work's Raichur, Manvi, Lingasugur & Sindhanur taluk Different types of roads, Building and other development works. 3) Amount of works: Min Rs. 1376653.50 Max Rs. 21007063.61 4) EMD Amount Min Rs. 17500.00 Max Rs. 320000.00 5) Period (including Manson) Min 4 (Four) Months Max 9 (Nine) Months 6) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender: 29/12/2022 16:00:00 7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender 30/12/2022 16:30:00

For More details visit this website https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

SD/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,PWD Division, RAICHUR.

DIP/Raichur/480/MC&A/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
BALLARI DISTRICT, BALLARI-583101.
Telephone: 08392-277100 Fax: 08392-272538
Email: dmfbly@gmail.com

ಸಂ.ಕಂ.ಗಣಿ/ಡಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಫ್–2/284/2021–22 ದಿನಾಂಕ:14.12.2022

Short term E-Auction Notice (Through e-procurement portal)

District Mineral Foundation Trust, Ballari district, DC office compound, Ballari have decided to invest available Endowment funds of DMF Trust in the form of Fixed Deposits in Public sector/RRB banks. The Short term e-auction is called in e-procurement portal of Karnataka government.

Interested Public Sector/ RRB banks may participate in short term e-auction through e –procurement portal. Short term E-Auction documents RD/2022-23/Auction195 are available in http;//eproc.karnataka.gov.in website from 16.12.2022 to 26.12.2022 (05.30PM).

Events/ Schedule: 1.Short term E-Auction Published Date: **16-12-2022 12.30 PM.** 2.Date of uploading bid Documents in e-portal: **16-12-2022 12.30 PM.** 3.Last date to upload the Declaration in Schedule A & B: **26-12-2022 05.30 PM.** 4.Short term E-Auction Start Date: **29-12-2022 11.00 AM.** 5.Short term E-Auction End Date: **30-12-2022 05.30 PM**

For more information Office of Special officer, DMFT, Ballari may be contacted. (Contact No. 08392-277204).

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner and chairman DMFT. Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/709/MCA/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
STATE HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Office of the Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit,
State Highway Development Project, PWD Annexe Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
Website: www.shdpkar.in E-mail: cepiushdp@gmail.com

No: CPO/SHDP/Phase-4(Stage-2)/Package-550/2022-23/3239 Date: 15.12.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF STATE HIGHWAYS & MAJOR DISTRICT ROADS UNDER SHDP- PHASE 4 (STAGE-2)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 06/2022-23 DATE: 15-12-2022 (2nd Call)

The Chief Engineer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru on behalf of Governor of Karnataka invites Re-tender from eligible class - I contractors registered with PWD, Govt. of Karnataka for the works approved vide G.O No.: PWD E-188 EAP 2020 Bengaluru, Dated: 03.01.2022 and PWD E-20 EAP 2022, Dated:13.01.2022 of below mentioned package under SHDP Phase 4 (Stage-2), as per standard bidding document (KW-4) and SHDP norms in two cover system. The tenderers may submit tenders for the work given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka **(http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in lakhs)	Class of Contractor	Duration
1	5054 SHDP Improvements (Project) PKG-550 No: KPWD/2021-22/RD/WORK_INDENT147025/CALL-2	Package amount put to tender may be obtained through e-proc portal	Package EMD may be obtained through e-proc portal	Class-I & above	18 months (Including monsoon)

TENDER PROCESS DETAILS: (1) Tender documents can be downloaded in E-Proc portal from **16-12-2022** to **29-12-2022** upto 17.30 hours (2) Pre bid meeting on **20-12.2022** at 11-30 hours (O/o Chief Project Officer, SHDP, Bangalore) (3) Last date & time for receipt of tenders **30-12-2022** Upto 17.30 hours. (4) Date & time for opening of technical bid **12-01-2023** at 11.30 hours. (5)Tentative Date & time for opening of financial bid **16-01-2023** at 11-30 hours. (6) Corrigendums / Addendums and modifications in notification if any will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Note: Registered contractors in KPWD Karnataka and e-procurement are eligible to participate in tender

Any information about the tendered works can be obtained from O/o The Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru during office hours on all working days and also through **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** and SHDP Website: **www.shdpkar.in** E-procurement portal helpdesk Telephone nos. are 080-23010900 & 080-38013000.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, PIU-SHDP Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3546/AAA/2022-23

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II
AT : TRIVENI COMPLEX, 1ST FLOOR, ABIDS, HYDERABAD

OA No. 766 of 2022

BETWEEN :
Axis Bank Ltd.. ...Applicant
And
Mr. Ireni Anil Narsing Rao & Ors.....Defendant/s
SUMMONS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To,

3. M/s. KSR Properties Private Limited Rep. by its Managing Director Mr. K. Ramana Reddy Having its office at H. No.16/19, Flat No.301, Mahalaxmi Nivas, Sagar Society, Road No.2, Banjarahills, Hyderabad - 500034. **Also at: M/s. KSR Properties Private Limited, Flat No.401,** # 272/3 RT, Padmaja Apt's S. R. Nagar, Hyderabad - 500038. **Also at: KSR Properties Private Limited,** # 4/A, 9th Main, Sadashiva Nagar, Bangalore - 560080. **(Defendant No.3)**

4. M/s. K. Ramana Reddy S/o. Not known to the applicant, R/o. H. No.16/19, Flat No.301, Mahalaxmi Nivas, Sagar Society Road No.2, Banjara hills, Hyderabad - 500034 **(Defendant No.4)**

Please take the summons in the above O.A. No.766/2022 filed by the applicant for recovery of money of **Rs.32,96,387/-** against you. The Hon'ble Tribunal ordered summons to you by way of paper publication in **"VAARTHA" & "Hindu"** daily newspaper and posted the matter **16/01/2023.**

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under;

(i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest in created and / or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(V) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are hereby required to show cause on **16/01/2022 at 10.30 a.m.** at Debts Recovery Tribunal - II, 1st Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad - 500001, in person or by an Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take Notice that in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this day 30th of November,2022.
(By order of the Court)
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Hyderabad.

Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited
(Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Upper Bhadra Project Division No. 6, Somaguddu Road, Challakere. Phone/Fax No.: 08195-250307,
e-mail: ubpee06@gmail.com

No:EE/VJNL/UBP/D-6/CLK/TENDER NOTIFICATION/2022-23/1500-1501 DATE: 12.12.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E-Procurement Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, VJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer UBP Division No.06, Challakere, invites tenders for Challakere Constiutency for Construction of C.C. Road from the Contractors registered in KPWD on percentage basis Indent No. 1)2440 – 84.69 – 49.10 Lakhs, and 2)2439 – 59.27. The tenders are required to submit their tenders in Two Cover System containing bid documents and supporting eligible documents, which can be obtained through website. www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender box. Last Date for submission of tenders through e-portal is 20.12.2022, 5.00 PM and Technical Bid opening date is on 22.12.2022 at 11.00AM and Financial Bid will be opened on 26.12.2022 or after approval of Technical Bid in the office of Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP Division No.6, Challakere for any clarification regarding EMD, E-Portatal tender Fee, details of work and for any other information, visit the following singed office in the office time or visit to e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Tender accepecting authority has reserved all rights to cancel the tender at any stage.

DIPR/CTA/MCA/765/2022-23

Sd/-Executive Engineer, VJNL, Upper Bhadra Project, Division 6, Challakere

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from the *Lunchbox*.

Looking at Indian cinema through Pudovkin's five editing techniques

While the evolution of editing as a narrative tool, in Indian cinema or otherwise, cannot be entirely attributed to Soviet film theorists, it becomes relevant to see how even today Pudovkin's film techniques seem to be implemented consistently and creatively

Bhuvanesh Chandar

Pure cinema, according to Alfred Hitchcock was the use of the Kuleshov Effect: an effect demonstrated by Russian filmmaker Lev Kuleshov to show how viewers can derive meaning from a sequential order of shots and the interaction between them. The effect created by the juxtaposition of shots is often used to define the art of cinema itself.

Russian film theorist and filmmaker, Vselovod Pudovkin – who is argued as one of the founders of the Kuleshov Effect and as a key figure in establishing its derivative, the Soviet montage theory – wrote about five editing techniques under the chapter 'Editing As An Instrument Of Impression' in his 1929 book *Film Technique and Film Acting*. These techniques, once again, use the Kuleshov Effect and speak about how film editing can be used as a "method that controls the 'psychological guidance' of the spectator." These five techniques are contrast, simultaneity, parallelism, symbolism, and leit motif.

Theories and formulas, once established, tend to be used mechanically after a point. While the evolution of editing as a narrative tool, in Indian cinema or otherwise, cannot be entirely attributed to Soviet film theorists, it becomes relevant to see how Pudovkin's film techniques are implemented today, even in popular Indian cinema.

Simultaneity, a tool of suspense

Simultaneity is the easiest technique to find in films all over the world. Pick any Indian suspense drama that was influenced by American films, and there is a chance you will find a section in which two scenes with two distinct actions are rapidly knitted to create tension. As Pudovkin puts it, "the outcome of one depends on the outcome of the other," and this elicits a sense of urgency or excitement.

In *Ghajini* (2005/2008), the scene that has Kalpana hiding inside her pooja room from the killers is intercut with that of Sanjay searching for her. The imminent danger and the suspense of if and how Kalpana will learn Sanjay's identity are accentuated here.

In Lokesh Kanagaraj's *Vikram* (2022), the scene with the unconscious baby at a battlefield is intercut with Amar and the team on their way to save the day. Several Indian films have used simultaneity as a method to replace 'shock' with 'tension'. In *Don* (1978) and its Tamil remake *Billa* (1980), it is only after the end of 'Are Diwano' or 'My Name is Billa' do we see the police entering the party hall to arrest the gang.

Contrast gets a criminal twist

Speaking of gangster films, thanks to the popularity of the infamous baptism scene in *The Godfather* (1972), Indian cinema has also used Pudovkin's contrast technique over and over in gangster films.; here two scenes happening simultaneously are cross-cut but the emphasis is more on the extreme differences in the subject handled. In *The Godfather*, while Michael Corleone stood as a godfather to his niece at the church, the scene is cross-cut to the Corleone gang's killing spree. Here, the contrast is between a holy ceremony such as baptism – which is meant to purify the soul – and the act of killing.

In many versions of *The Godfather* in India, like *Nayakan* (1987) and *Malik* (2021), the act of baptism is replaced with funeral rituals that are performed by Hindus and Muslims. The contrast is shown between a ritual meant to offer peace to the deceased and the act of killing.

In *Bheeshma Parvam* (2022), the patriarch gets almost killed and is shown to exact revenge from the hospital.

The infamous intermission scene in *KGF: Chapter 2* (2022) where Rocky meets Inayath Khaleel also has similar sequencing of shots although it isn't meant to compare contrasting ideas. But Rocky does give an offer that Inayath cannot refuse – one that closes soon.

In *Pudhupettai* (2006), too, the contrast is lost but a similar section exists.

Parallelism to evoke emotion

The infamous police station scene in *Drishyam* is a perfect example of parallelism, a technique where two similar scenes are intercut to show the differences or evoke a certain emotion. In the film, as the lead character walks out of the police station, there is a transitional cut to him walking out of the same station at a different time. Parallelism is often used to shift between different periods. In *Lunchbox* (2013), when Ila reads Saajan's letter about eating a banana, parallelism is used to bring them both closer. *Rorschach* (2022) uses the technique when two instances of home invasion from two different periods are intercut.

Leit Motif for divinity and heroism

Indian cinema can't get enough of Leit Motif, a technique in which a musical theme attached to a character or place or emotion is made to recur to elicit an emotional response. Sounds familiar? The Soviet filmmaker explains the technique through a scene in his 1927 film *The End of St. Petersburg* in which the motif of a church bell is used to convey the atrocities of the church during the Tsarist regime. In Satyajit Ray's *Devi* (1960), another film with a controversial politico-religious commentary, the ringing of the bells at the pooja room is recurred to reflect the fear in the mind of the husband (Soumitra Chatterjee). A more recent example is *Ratsasan* (2018), where jingle-like music is played whenever the cop sees signs that point toward the psychopath. In most devotional films like *Jai Kaali* (1992) or *Rajakali Amman* (2000) or *Kantara* (2022), a specific folk percussion music is used as the motif to show the possession of the goddess or the demi-god. Most modern-day horror films have to thank western titles like *Star Wars* or *Predator* for using such motifs.

Symbolism, dead or alive?

Symbolism, however, has had its own evolution in popular Indian cinema. From the age of silent films to *Agneepath* (1990) and to 2022's *RRR*, literal and visual symbolisms continue to be used. Elements of nature are attributed to a character or an emotion and are used in the frame when they recur. But Pudovkin's technique is about how symbolically a scene cuts to another or how two scenes are symbolically intercut.

Pudovkin uses a scene from fellow Soviet montage theorist Sergei Eisenstein's 1925 film *Strike*, in which "the shooting down of workmen is punctuated by shots of the slaughter of a bull in a stockyard." The scene seems so familiar that you might find similar instances in Indian films. However, filmmakers have also found other fascinating methods to use symbolism. In countless films, the crashing of surging waves on the seashore is used to symbolise the surge of emotions. But the most popular usage of symbolism is the 'sanskari display of intimacy' in the cinema of the '60s and '70s, where a shot of a couple coming close to kiss will cut to two flowers touching each other. Finding a symbolic cut in modern cinema, however, seems to be a bit difficult. In *OK Kanmani* (2015), when a steamy conversation builds between Tara and Adi on the train, there is a sudden change in the camera angle to show a speeding express train passing by, symbolising the rush of emotions. But, technically this isn't a cut to another scene.

It's fascinating to see how filmmakers adapt a pre-existing idea and give it their own unique twist. There are examples where some sections seem to abide by two or many of these techniques. In the infamous Donkey and Bus scene in *Karnan* (2021), simultaneity marries symbolism. The tragic climax of *Ennu Ninte Moideen* (2015) is both simultaneity and contrast (one depicts hope, and the other, hopelessness).

Pudovkin's theories were derived at a time when cinema was fundamentally the stitching of shots. Back-tracking the evolution of cinema to see how these techniques still make sense 100 years after Pudovkin started his career is a fun exercise by itself.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Mr. S. Bhaskaran of Madras wants to know the meaning of 'irony' and 'ironical'."

" 'Irony' is from Greek 'eironeia' which means 'dissembler or dissimulation'. An 'ironical statement' is a statement where what you mean is the opposite of what you say. The intended meaning is different from the expressed meaning. If you praise someone when you really mean to condemn him, you will be ironical. Someone makes a stupid remark, and if you say that a Brahaspati has spoken, your remark will be considered ironical. On a day pouring with rain, if you say to someone 'What a lovely day!' your remark will be considered ironical."

"Mr. G. V. Bhaskar of Vizianagaram wants to know how to use the word 'imperious'."

" 'Imperious' means 'overbearing, domineering'.

I hate him for his imperious manner.

An imperious person is one who tries to impose his will on others in an offensive manner. The word 'imperious' implies arrogance.

He always commands in an imperious tone.

'Imperious' is different from 'imperial', though both are from the root 'imperium' which means 'an empire, absolute power'. 'Imperial' means, 'pertaining to an empire or its rule'.

Britain was an imperial power.

It is also used in the sense of 'magnificent, majestic'.

It was not an ordinary dinner, it was an imperial banquet.

He is noted for his imperial generosity.

'Imperial' is also used as a noun. Some grow a small pointed beard below the lower lip and this is called an imperial."

"Mr. P. Vasudevan of Calicut wants to know the meaning of 'turnkey project'."

" 'A turnkey' originally was a person in charge of prison keys. Now it means 'a contract for a job in which the contractor is to complete the entire operation, leaving the building, plant, etc. ready for use'. A turnkey project is a project that will be completed in every aspect by the contractor. All that the owner has to do is to turn the key of the door to commission it. That's why it is called a turnkey project."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

December 16 is the birth anniversary of writer Jane Austen celebrated for her sly social satires and swoony-romances. Here is a quiz on the life and writings of the author

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1

Two of Austen's novels were published after her death at the age of 41 in 1817. They included a note from her sibling identifying her for the first time as the author of her other four novels. Name the two books. Who was the sibling?

QUESTION 2

"The person, be it gentleman or lady, who has not pleasure in a good novel, must be intolerably stupid." Which character says this line in *Northanger Abbey* and name the novel being referenced in the conversation.

QUESTION 3

How many times does Austen use her first name for the characters in her novels (both complete and incomplete)? What are the full names of the characters?

QUESTION 4

In *Mansfield Park*, the group decides to stage a play, which has repercussions that continue till the end of the novel. Name the play and the writer.

QUESTION 5

Austen included a dedication to a royal at the beginning of her novel *Emma*. This royal is said to have been an admirer of her books though the feeling was not mutual. Who was the royal?

QUESTION 6

This 2004 movie starring Aishwarya Rai is a Bollywood adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice,* complete with dance numbers and music by Anu Malik. Name the movie.

Visual question:

This painting is said to be a portrait of young Jane Austen though it has been highly disputed by experts. What is the title of the painting? WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. A Romanian student in Paris, Petrache Peonaru, invented this item. **Ans: Fountain pen.**

2. William Addis, invented this in 1780, by attaching pig bristles to a specially carved handle made from cow bone.
Ans: Toothbrush

3. This naturally occurring material, has been used by many Stone Age societies for the production of sharp cutting tools.
Ans: Glass

4. This household item was considered an upper-class ornament but is now used universally.
Ans: Brooch

Visual: In 1826, John Walker, a chemist in Stockton of Tees, discovered this item through a lucky accident.
Ans: Matchsticks

Early Birds: Bijo Paul| Aryan Bhardwaj | K. N. Viswanathan | Devendra Singh Chaudhary

Word of the day

Abut:
lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

Synonyms: edge, adjoin, border

Usage: *The new shopping mall abuts his property*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/abutpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əˈbʌt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Engineering student found dead in hostel washroom

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 19-year-old engineering student from Kerala was found dead under mysterious circumstances in the washroom of the hostel on the college campus in Anekal on Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Nitin Narayana, native of Kozhikode, who got admitted to the engineering course at a private college in Anekal a few days ago.

The incident came to light when his roommate returned from class and found the bathroom locked from inside and there was no response even after repeated knocks. He then informed the warden.

The warden and others rushed to the spot and peeped from the ventilator to see him lying in a pool of blood. They broke open the door and found Nitin dead with his throat slit and informed the police.

The Anekal police shifted the body and recovered a knife from the scene of crime and informed his family. His father works in Dubai, while the other members of the family live in a village close to Kozhikode in Kerala.

Probe revealed that Nitin was homesick and depressed as this was the first time he was away from home. The police are awaiting the post-mortem report to rule out any foul play and for the further investigation.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

Road Race on Dec. 18

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ryan Sports Club is organising its 186th Road Race titled RYAN Minithon 2022-23 on December 18. It will be held from 8 a.m. onward on its premises in Yelahanka.

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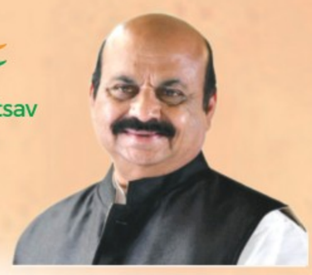
Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister, Govt. of India

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOM & TEXTILES


Sri Basavaraja S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Karnataka

Nekara Samman Scheme
(For handloom weavers)
Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Rs. 5,000 each to Individual Handloom Weavers' Bank Account.

- "Nekara Samman" - Scheme to support handloom weavers in financial distress.
- Annual Financial assistance to registered handloom weavers under "Nekara Samman Scheme" increased to Rs. 5,000/- from Rs. 2,000/-. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to 46,864 handloom weavers' Bank Account released today.

Shri Shankar B. Patil Munenakoppa, Minister of Handloom and Textile and Sugar Department at one of the handloom weaver's site.

Hon'ble Chief Minister will initiate the transfer of Annual Financial assistance of Rs. 5,000/- each by Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to 46,864 handloom weavers' Bank Account amounting to Rs. 2343.20 Lakhs.

Date : 16.12.2022, Friday, Time : 10.00 A.M.
Venue : Hon'ble Chief Minister's Home Office 'Krishna'

Shri T.H.M. Kumar, IAS
Commissioner for Textile Development and Director
Department of Handloom and Textiles
"VANAVIKAS" BUILDING,
Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 003.

Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS
Secretary to Govt. (MSME, Mines & Textiles)
Department of Commerce and Industry,
Government of Karnataka

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ATHER

A BG-BGE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Mrs. CHRISTINA** W/o Mr. Perinba Dass is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mr. ANBU** W/o Mr. Selva Dass any persons objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Residential **Site No. 66,** Property No. 27/1B (Old No. 27/1), situated at **Yerappanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, in all measuring **1200 square feet** and bounded on the:

East by : Site No. 69, West by : Road, North by : Site No. 65, South by: Site No.67

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 7204863700

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II
AT : TRIVENI COMPLEX, 1ST FLOOR, ABIDS, HYDERABAD

OA No. 767 of 2022

BETWEEN :
Axis Bank Ltd.. ...Applicant
And
Mrs. Gangisetti Sridevi & Ors ...Defendant/s
SUMMONS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To,

3. **M/s. KSR Properties Private Limited Rep. by its Managing Director Mr. K. Ramana Reddy** Having its office at H. No.16/19, Flat No.301 Mahalaxmi Nivas, Sagar Society, Road No.2, Banjarahills, Hyderabad - 500034 **Also at: M/s. KSR Properties Private Limited** Flat No.401, # 272/3 RT, Padmaja Apt's S. R. Nagar, Hyderabad - 500038 **Also at: KSR Properties Private Limited** # 4/A, 9th Main, Sadashiva Nagar Bangalore - 560080. **(Defendant No.3)**
4. **M/s. K. Ramana Reddy S/o. Not known to the applicant** R/o. H. No.16/19, Flat No.301, Mahalaxmi Nivas, Sagar Society, Road No.2, Banjara hills, Hyderabad - 500034 **(Defendant No.4)**

Please take the summons in the above **O.A. No.767/2022** filed by the applicant for recovery of money of **Rs.47,11,977/-** against you. The Hon'ble Tribunal ordered summons to you by way of paper publication in **"VAARTHA" & "Hindu"** daily newspaper and posted the matter **16/01/2023.**

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under;

(i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest in created and / or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(V) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are hereby required to show cause on **16/01/2022 at 10.30 a.m.** at Debts Recovery Tribunal - II, 1st Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad - 500001, in person or by an Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take Notice that in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this day 30th of November,2022.
(By order of the Court)
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Hyderabad.

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited

KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore - 560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105

IFT No.: KMF/ENGG/HAMUL-Mega Dairy/ETP-Works /2022-23 **Date: 14.12.2022**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tenders from the eligible contractors / suppliers / manufacturers through E-procurement for the work mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed contractors / suppliers / manufacturers who have executed similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com and helpline No. +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777,080-22230960, 080-222341155

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD (Rs.)	Period of completion
1	Design, Construction, Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning of 20 LLPD capacity Effluent treatment Plant On TURNKEY Basis for New Mega Dairy at Hassan for Hassan Milk Union - Hassan, Karnataka State.	1 Job	15.55 Lakhs	10 Months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated**16.12.2022 to 18.01.2023 up to 4.00 pm.**
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: **18.01.2023 up to 4.00 pm**
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: **20.01.2023 at 11.30 am.**

For Karnataka Co-Opp. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/-
Director [Engineering-1]

District Urban Development Cell, Vijayanagara District, Hospete-583201.

No: DUDCV/Nagarothana(M)-4/04/2022-23 **Date:12.12.2022**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer DUDC, Vijayanagara District Invites tenders in Two Stage tender system using standard tender documents from Eligible contractors for NAGAROTHANA (Municipality)-4 Project in the Limits of CMC Hosapete, TMC Hadagali, Kamalapura and Town Panchayath Kudaligi ULB as below.

Sl.No Name of the Works & Indent No. 1) PROVIDING AND CONNECTING MISSING LINKS & HOUSE CONNECTIONS OF UGD NETWORK IN VARIOUS LOCATION OF HOSPET CITY UNDER NAGAROTHANA PHASE-IV(DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT137526)/ call-2 **Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)** 404.52 **Amount put to tender (Rs in Lakhs)** 340.22 **EMD (in.Rs)** 606780.00

2) Replacement of Filter Media at WTP at Rajvala Road, construction of RO Filter plants in Rajeev Nagara Kayaka Nagara & Najeer Nagara and Laying of 110,150 & 200MM dia Pipeline in Hadagali TMC limits Under Nagarothana Phase – IV(DMA/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT139489 call-2 **Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)** 135.25 **Amount put to tender (Rs in Lakhs)** 112.35 **EMD (in.Rs)** 202875.00

3) Drilling of Borewells & Laving of 160 MM Pipeline Near second of Kannada University to Water Distribution center of 17th Ward in Kamalapura TMC Limits Under Nagarothana Phase -IV (DMA/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT143471)**Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)** 45.00 **Amount put to tender (Rs in Lakhs)** 35.10 **EMD (in.Rs)** 90000.00

4. Improvements to the Water supply Network in Various locations of Kudligi TMC limits Under Nagarothana Phase –IV (DMA/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT139490 Call-2 **Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)** 67.63 **Amount put to tender (Rs in Lakhs)** 57.30 **EMD (in.Rs)** 135260.00.

Interested Contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender, Contractors can download the tender documents from the https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in e-procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically & tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically.

Particulars & Date and Time: Last Date & Time for tender queries/ clarifications:22.12.2022 at 17.00 **Hrs Pre Bid Meeting Date:** 20.12.2022 at 11.00 Hrs. **Last date and time for receipt of tender:** 23.12.2022 at 17.00 Hrs. **Date & Time for Opening of bids:** 26.12.2022 at 10.30 Hrs. **Auto extension of tender schedule** 03 days

DIPR/Vijayanagar/284/MCA/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
District Urban Development cell, Vijayanagara District

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, MUDALIAAR Arun Prakash, S/O, Prakash born on 31–01–1992 residing at No 117, Nisarga Brundavana Apartment, Kammasandra, Ananth Nagar, Electronic City, 560100, have changed my name to Arun Prakash, vide affidavit–IN–KA11607307921987U dated 11–Dec–2022 at Bengaluru

I, Sushma Basavaraj D/o Basavaraj Jayashree R/o 497, Aishwarya Appt, D5 5th floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross Vimanapura Bangalore have changed my name to Sushma Veer Basavaraj for all purposes.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHITLUR Chandra Gupta Praba Gupta, W/o Chandra Gupta Chitlur Bangaraswami, R/at #312/39, TF4, East Circle Road, Visveswarapuram, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004 have changed my name to Chitlur Chandra Gupta Prabha Gupta vide affidavit dt: 15.12.2022 before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru

I, Nazneen Banu W/O, Syed Abdulla R/o 47/48,3rd Cross, Kbhs Layout, Kurubaruhalli, Karnataka Layout, Bangalore - 560086 have changed my name to Nazneen Begum for all purposes.

EDUCATIONAL
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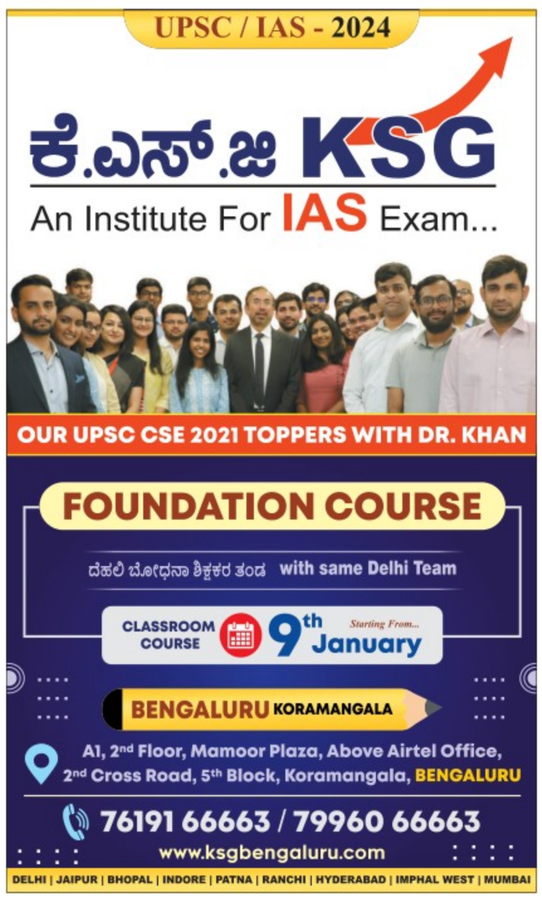

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, ZAINAB, D/o Ashfaq Ahamed Kareem, R/a No.20, Lakshmaiah Reddy Road, Kacharakanahalli, Bangalore-560084 have changed my name to Zainab Ashfaq Ahamed vide affidavit dt: 09.12.2022 sworn before Notary Bhagya Kumari N, B'lore.

I, SUSHIL Kumar Kothari, R/a No.42/5, B 1st Floor, Ranga Rao road, Shankarpuram, Bangalore-560004 have changed my minor son's name from Aaditya Kothari to Adithya Sushil Kothari vide affidavit dt: 13.12.2022 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

I, NARAYANI Thykkandi, M/o Divakaran Peru Purayil, R/o Peru Purayil House, Koovode, Kuttikkol Post, Kalliasseri via, Kannur Dist, Kerala-670562 have changed my name to Narayani T vide affidavit dt: 13-12-2022 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

I, HANSRAJ, S/o Poonaram Prajapathage, R/at No.3, Chandrasekhar Building, Varthur Main Road, Siddapura, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066, have changed my name from Hansraj to Hansraj Poonaram vide affidavit dated 14-12-2022 before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

I, DIVYA, R/at No. 1-9/B1, Opp. KBN Hospital, Khuba Plot, Main Road, Kalaburagi City, Karnataka-585102, now camp at Bangalore have changed my name from Divya to Divya Khuba vide affidavit dated 13-12-2022 before Notary Leela Bengaluru.

I, SANGEETA Basavaraj Hanumanahallimath, W/o. Basavaraj.J.H, R/at No. G-4, Shivaganga Elegance, Uttarahalli Main Road, Vallabhanagar, 1st Main, Subramanyapura Post, Bengaluru-560061 have changed my name to Sangeeta Rao vide affidavit dated 16/11/2022 before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru.

I, RITA Devi, M/o Raghwendra Kumar Singh, R/o SMQ 88/18, Akash Vihar Camp, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037, have changed my name to Rita Singh vide affidavit dt: 14-12-2022 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, MANASI Patel, D/o Hirji Narayan Patel, R/o Flat No.1403, B Zenith Residences, Opposite to Lumbini Garden, Nagawara Village, Bengaluru-560045 have changed my name to Mansi Hirji Patel vide affidavit dt: 15-12-2022 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed.

I,TAYAB UR Rehman, R/at No.8/10, 4th Floor, Elite Residency, 1st Main, Ganganagar, Hebbal Mill Road, Bangalore-560032, have changed my name from Tayab Ur Rehman to Tayab Ur Rahman vide affidavit dated 15-12-2022 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bengaluru.

I, YESU Pavan Kumar Mantena, resident of # D405, GK Lakeview apartments, Bengaluru, 560064, have changed my name from Yesu Pavan Kumar Mantena S/o V S S N Raju M to Eshwar Pavan Manthena S/o Manthena Venkata Satya Suryanarayana Raju vide Affidavit dated 14-12-2022 before Notary Ravi Bangalore 560040

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, POONAM Kumari Singh, W/o Janmejai Singh, R/o SMQ 36/06, Gagan Vihar Camp, Murgeshpalya, Bengaluru-560017, have changed my name to Poonam Singh vide affidavit dt: 14-12-2022 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

LOST & FOUND

NOTICE ASIAN Paints, 6A, Shantinagar, Santacruz east, Mumbai, 400055 Notice is hereby given that the certificate of Asian paints ltd has been lost and the holder of the certificate has applied to the company to issue duplicate certificate. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said securities should lodge claim with the company at its registered office within 15 days from this date,else company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate without further intimation. name of holder–Usha Krishnan, share certificate with face value 1200 rs, 1200 securities,folio no ANK0069630

LEGAL NOTICE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(ORDER 5, rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the court of Ms. Mahima Rai Singh
Senior Civil Judge-cum-Rent Controller, (West)
Room No. 369, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
Suit No. : CS SCJ-6/22
Lancer Footwear India Pvt. Ltd.
Versus
Mubarak Pasha

To,
Mr. Mubarak Pasha
Proprietor of M/s A.Z. Agencies
2649, Ward No.8,
Behind Panchagiri College,
Chikkaballapura-562101
(Karnataka)

WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the **20-12-2022** the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
GIVEN under my hand and the seal of this court on 20-10-2022.

Sd/
Senior Civil Judge-cum-Rent Controller, (West)
Seal Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE The following documents Pertaining to Aircraft Employees Co. OP. Society Ltd, approved by BDA, Site No. 131, of Mrs. Manjula, D/o Y.Munirathnam Naidu, W/o Mr.D.Vinay Kumar in Kundalahalli, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru 37 are lost/misplaced. 1. Sale Deed No.10859/87–88, Pages 285–286, Book –I, volume 2694, dt : 26.02.1988 in favour of Mr.G.V. Ramanaiah. 2. Sale deed no.5647/92–93, pages 226–229, Book –I, volume 610, dt : 19.01.1993 in favour of Mr.Y.Munirathnam Naidu. 3. Sale Deed No.10674/2004–05, Book – I, C.D No. KRID62, dt : 17.07.2004 in favour of Mr.D.Vinay Kumar. A Complaint has been filed on Karnataka State Police, Lost Report No. 044232/2022, Dt: 14.12.2022 Any person having above documents please inform below. Mob : 9986178228/9353054443 Mrs. Manjula No.2455, 4th Main, HAL 3rd Stage, Vimanapura Post, Bengaluru – 560 017.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.908/BGK/SEE/EE(O)/AEE-1/Tr.(W&M)/O-53/5561-69 Date: 13.12.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through E-Procurement Mode)

KPTCL invites tender on Electronic mode for the following works on **Total Turnkey basis.**

1) Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/BGK/SEE/22-23/CAP_BANK/SHIROL/CALL-2** for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection including Testing and Commissioning for the work of providing 12.1kV, 2.9MVAR Capacitor Bank for 11kV Bank-III at **110kV Sub-station Shirol** in Mudhol Taluk Bagalkot District coming under jurisdiction TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Bagalkot.

2) Bid Enquiry No**: KPTCL/BGK/SEE/22-23/CAP_BANK/VJMT/CALL-2** for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection including Testing and Commissioning for the work of providing 12.1kV, 2.9MVAR Capacitor Bank for 11kV Bank at **220kV R/s Vajjaramatti** in Mudhol Taluk, Bagalkot District coming under jurisdiction TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Bagalkot.

3) Bid Enquiry No**: KPTCL/BGK/SEE/22-23/CAP_BANK/SAVALAGI/CALL-2** for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection including Testing and Commissioning for the work of providing 12.1kV, 2.9MVAR Capacitor Bank for 11kV Bank-III at **110kV Sub-station Savalagi** in Jamakhandi Taluk, Bagalkot District coming under jurisdiction TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Bagalkot.

4) Bid Enquiry No**: KPTCL/BGK/SEE/22-23/CAP_BANK/UTTUR/CALL-2** for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection including Testing and Commissioning for the work of providing 12.1kV, 2.9MVAR Capacitor Bank for 11kV Bank-II at **110kV Sub-station Uttur** in Mudhol Taluk, Bagalkot District coming under jurisdiction TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Bagalkot.

5) Bid Enquiry No**: KPTCL/BGK/SEE/22-23/CAP_BANK/RANBLGLI/CALL-2** for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection including Testing and Commissioning for the work of providing 12.1kV, 2.9MVAR Capacitor Bank for 11kV Bank-III at **110kV Sub-station Ranna Belagali** in Mudhol Taluk, Bagalkot District coming under jurisdiction TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Bagalkot.

The tenders will be received through e-procurement portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "e-Procurement-KPTCL" or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16.12.2022.** Any other details can be had from the office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Ele), Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Zonal Office Complex, Opp: Sector No.45, Navanagar, Bagalkot-587 103.

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Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Tarikere

B.H. Road, N.H. 206, Tarikere – 577228, Tarikere-Taluk
Chikkamagaluru-District Pin Code: 577228
e-mail ID: apmctarikere@rediffmail.com Office Ph. No.: 08261-222221
No.: AMD/APMC/T/471/2022-23 Date: 12.12.2022

Brief Tender Notice
(Only through e-procurement system)

Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Tarikere invites Itemwise Tender in two cover system to be submitted through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999, 2000 Rules and as per related order, circular issued by the Government from civil contractors registered in Public Works Department and e-procurement portal and eligible as per Standard Tender Documents KW-4 Clause 3 (with latest amendments) work for the construction of Cement Concrete Road with Drain and Deck Slab in 1st Main and Middle Road at Main Market Yard of Tarikere APMC approved under 2022-23 Action Plan. **Work Indent No. APMC/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT5377.** Tender amount of works is **Rs. 1,56,20,601=13.** E.M.D. Amount is **Rs. 2,34,400=00** and date of Pre-bid meeting: **27.12.2022 at 11.00 AM.** Last date for receipt of filled technical and financial documents: **12.01.2023 up to 4.00 PM.** Date of opening technical bid: **13.01.2023 at 4.00 PM.** Date of opening financial bid will be intimated later. Further details can be obtained through website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** or during office hours.

Sd/- **Sd/-**
Secretary, **Administrator,**
APMC, Tarikere **APMC, Tarikere**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.:903/SEE/Tr(W&M)/EE(O)/T-1&T-3/22-23/CYS-54 **Date: 15.12.2022**

I- TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids for the following works.

1) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/903/SEE/HBL/Tr(W&M)/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/SWG/Hirekerur/Call-3. Tender for Providing additional 11 KV 11C+6F MCVCB switchgear for bifurcation of overloaded 11KV feeders at 110KV muss Hirekerur, in TL&SS Division, Haveri on Partial Turnkey Basis.

2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2021-22/IND2079/CALL-3. Supply of 32 Nos. of 50Kgs Suplher Hexa-Flouride (SF-6) Gas Cylinders.

II- TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Manual mode only)

3) Bid Enquiry No.: 903/SEE/ EE(O)/AEE-3/2022-23/Enq. NO:15 Dtd: 15.12.2022.EMD Amounting to Rs. 5260/- Supply of 3 No's of 66kV Current Transformes of ratio 400-200/1-1-1 A, Acc. Class-0.2s, to 66kV S/s Harihar-Hospet coming under TL&SS Division Haveri.

The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16.12.2022.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

Last date of submission of Tender **02.01.2023 at 16:00 hrs** & Date of opening Bids **03.01.2023 at 16.30 hrs.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.),
Transmission (W&M) Circle,KPTCL, Vidyuthnagar, Hubballi-24

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH

(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433 TELE FAX:080-26534625/477
e-mail: director@jayadevacardiology.com / pstodirectorsjicr@gmail.com

No.: SJICR/TS/105/2022-23 **Date:15.12.2022**

SHORT TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for supply of Medical & General Equipment and RISPACS system etc required for new 300 bedded Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research's hospital complex at Humnabad Road, Kalaburagi in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka.

1. The tenderers can download the documents from **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from 24-12-2022 and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is 23-01-2023 up to 4-00 PM.
2. Date of Pre-bid meeting: 09-01-2023 at 11-30 AM.
3. Date of Technical Bid opening: 24-01-2023 at 4-00 PM.
4. EMD: as mentioned in the tender document
5. For further details, please visit our website: **www.jayadevacardiology.com**
6. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

Sd/-
Chief Administrative Officer.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur – 591302

"SHORT TERM PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION"
(Through e-Procurement only)

The tender invited under this office Notification No: This Office Tender Notification No:1) KNNL/KPD/PB/TND/ BGM/SCP/RWS/2022-23/1230 Date:13.12.2022 2) KNNL/KPD/PB/TND/BGM/SCP/RWS/2022-23/1231 Date: 13.12.2022

1.Percentage rate tender is invited from eligible Class-I PWD/ KNNL Category III & above contractors registered in KPWD through e-procurement portal according to standard tender document rules in prescribed form on behalf of Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Bangalore. Details and Tender documents may be downloaded through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam and last date for bids submission through e-portal is on dated 26.12.2022 till 16.00 PM for the following works.

SL No:1:Name of Work:Construction of CC road to SC colony at Beejagarni, Savagaon, Shivanagar (Bhadarwade) and from SC colony to Graveyard at Kinaye villages in Belagavi Taluka. [Indent No 34609],Amount put to tender (In Lakhs):99.27, SL No:2:Name of Work:Construction of CC road to ST grave yard at Karle and Navage village's in Belagavi Taluka under TSP. [Indent No 34610],Amount put to tender (In Lakhs):99.25.

2.The Pre-bid Meeting will be held in the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division Khanapur on 20.12.2022 at 11.00hrs, 3.The Technical Bid will be opened on : 27.12.2022 at 16:30 hrs at the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur 4.The Financial Bid will be opened will be opened on: 28.12.2022 at 16:30 hrs at the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur, 5.Name of the Division for Contact: Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur–591302 (Ph. No. 08336 – 222163). 6. For further details such as, EMD amount, time limit, cost of tender form, eligibility for work, terms and conditions of tender visit our website www.knnlindia.com or contact the EE, KPD, Khanapur during office hours on any working day. Conditional tenders are liable to be rejected. The officer competent to accept the tender reserves the right of cancelling / rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever. 7.Further information can be had from the under signed during the office hours on telephone 08336-222163 and HP company helpline (080)25501216.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1374/MCA/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION KOPPAL.

Phone No: 08539 – 222318 email : eepwdkpl2@gmail.com

IFT No. PWD:DK:RD:KW-4:2022-23: 3457 Date: 13-12-2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents KW- 4 on e-procurement Portal, **Head of Account : 5054-(Plan) SH Bridges Improvements & 5054-(Plan) MDR Bridges Improvements/2022-23.** Two cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. 08539 – 222318 and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Work Indent Nos. **160938, 160939 & 160940** (3 Works) Last Date & time for receipt of tenders **22-12-2022 Time 16.00,** Date and time for opening of technical bid **23-12-2022 Time 16.30,** Max: Estimate Amount **Rs. 500.00 Lakhs** & Min: Estimate Amount **Rs. 495.00 Lakhs.** The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Date of Pre-bid meeting & Queries/Clarification, Date and time for opening of financial bid as mentioned in e-Proc Portal.

Sd/- EE PWD Division.
Koppal.

DIPR/KOPPAL/502/2022-23/DESHPANDE PUBLICITY

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/T(W&M)/MYS/EEE(O)/AE-3/22-23/5090-93 Date: 14.09.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites bids for the below mentioned bid enquiry Nos on Partial Turnkey Basis.

(1) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AE-3/T(W&M)/MYS/REPL/35 for Replacement of 1x12.5MVA, 66/11kV Power transformer-1 by 1x20MVA, 66/11kV Power transformer at 66/11kV Kollegala sub-station in Kollegala Taluk and Chamarajanagara district.

(2) Bid Enquiry No.:KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AE-3/T(W&M)/MYS/REPL/36 for Replacement of 1x8MVA, 66/11kV Power transformer by 1x12.5MVA, 66/11kV Power transformer at 66/11kV Sathegala sub-station in Chamarajanagara Taluk, Chamarajanagara district.

(3) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AE-3/T(W&M)/MYS/REPL/37 for Replacement of 1X12.5 MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 1X20 MVA, 66/11 kV Power Transformers at Haravey 66/11 kV Sub-station in Chamarajanagara Taluk.

(4) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AE-3/T(W&M)/MYS/ADDL/46 for Providing Additional 1X20 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer at 66/11kV DR pete Sub St

(5) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AE-3/T(W&M)/MYS/ADDL/47 for Providing Additional 1X8 MVA 66/11kV Transformer at 66/11kv Gundlupete Substation in Gundlupete Taluk & Chamarajanagara.

(6) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AE-3/T(W&M)/MYS/ADDL/48 for Providing Additional 1X12.5 MVA 66/11kV Transformer at 66/11kv Terakanambi Substation in Gundlupete Taluk & Chamarajanagara District.

(7) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AE-3/T(W&M)/MYS/ADDL/49 for Providing Additional 1X8MVA 66/11kV Transformer at 66/11kv Kothnuru Substation in Hanur Taluk & Chamarajanagara District.

The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "**e-procurement-kptcl"** or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **19.12.2022.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, 1st Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-570007. Ph: 0821-2455018

Paediatric surgeons record a rise in neonatal congenital anomalies

We get nearly 50 such cases every month, says the head of the Department of Paediatric Surgery at the BMCRI; a three-day annual conference of the Indian Association of Paediatric Surgeons, Karnataka Chapter, begins in the city today

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Neonatal congenital anomalies that contribute to over 15% of all paediatric surgeries are on the rise. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

A newborn brought to the Department of Paediatric Surgery in Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) with absent anal opening required an emergency bypass surgery of the intestine as a temporary method for passing stools. Later, on evaluation the baby was found to have a complex urological anomaly with a single kidney which was poorly functioning. Also the baby had a tethered cord where her spinal cord was adherent and was causing neurological problems of limbs and bladder.

The baby needed surgery involving multiple systems – intestine, kidney and spine. All surgeries were done at the right time in a staged manner by doctors and the baby has recovered well.

Such neonatal congenital anomalies that contribute to over 15% of all paediatric surgeries are on the rise. Paediatric surgeons, who have noted a 30% increase in the incidence compared to a decade ago, attribute this to greater awareness and increased antenatal detection of such anomalies.

Newborn congenital anomalies, often referred to as birth defects, have a variety of causes ranging from pregnancy or birth complications to genetic malformations to viral infections in utero. In many cases, however, a congenital anomaly may have no known cause.

"We get nearly 50 cases of neonatal congenital anomalies every month at BMCRI. The number of children born with such anomalies are only increasing by the day mainly due to greater awareness and antenatal detection," said Anand Alladi, who heads the Department of Paediatric Surgery at BMCRI.

Early intervention

"If picked up early and treated appropriately, the potential for recovery in such children is very good. Handling children with such anomalies requires special knowledge and care as any intervention has to take into account the growth and development of the child. Unless appropriately handled these interventions can have long lasting consequences," he explained.

Dasmit Singh, President of Indian Association of Paediatric Surgeons, said unlike in the past, paediatric surgeons are now available at taluk level hospitals and even in smaller towns. "This along with advances in equipment and training, support departments like anesthesia, radiology and pathology has made surgery in children safe," he said.

Pointing out that many of the birth defects are associated with involvement of multiple organ systems, Dr. Singh said these need to be evaluated and managed holistically as many may not be evident. "This requires specialist surgeons who are child-specific and not organ-specific. There are around 3,000 paediatric surgeons in the country of which 150 are in Karnataka," he said.

He said as of now there is no data on the number of children born with such anomalies. "We are working on creating a registry of neonatal congenital anomalies," he said.

Insurance

Ramesh S., Professor and Head of the Department of Paediatric Surgery at Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, pointed out that minimal invasive and endoscopic procedures are also becoming part of standard treatment protocols now. "Earlier, birth defects were not covered by insurance and treatment used to be expensive and unaffordable. Despite a directive from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), only some insurance companies are covering congenital anomalies if the mother is insured before marriage or before conception. But, there is not much awareness about this," he asserted.

Fake doctor arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Rajgopalanagar police arrested a 55-year-old quack who was running a clinic without an authorised degree and treating patients.

The fraud came to light when the accused Nagaraj Savanoor had treated 26-year-old Jyothi, a garment factory employee for fever on September 25, and administered three injections, following which she developed complication.

The victim went to the doctor and he gave her an ointment and advised her to consult another doctor. The victim approached another hospital and the doctor, after examination, advised her that the infection has been aggravated and needed surgery.

Shocked by this, the victim confronted the doctor, who allegedly offered to bear the medical expenses and asked her not to file any complaint.

When the accused did not help her financially, the victim approached the police and filed a complaint. Based on the complaint, the Rajgopalanagar police summoned the doctor and found out that he did not have any degree to practise, and arrested him under charges of cheating and forgery.

The accused was running Sahana Polyclinic at Hegganahalli for years. He tried to change the name of his clinic after the victim filed a complaint. The police have also booked Kumaraswamy, owner of the building where the clinic was operational.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (December 16, Friday), the following explainer is available:

- Looking at Indian cinema through Pudovkin's five editing techniques **bit.ly/limelightpudovkin**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Dept. of Collegiate Education to provide training for competitive exams to students

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Department of Collegiate Education has decided to provide training for competitive exams for degree students under the 'Chief Minister Vidyarthi Margadarshini' scheme through the virtual mode.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Pradeep P., Commissioner for the Department of Collegiate Education, said, "Competitive exams are really tough. Most of the students studying in government first grade colleges in Karnataka are socially and economically backward. They cannot bear the high fees for the private training institutions. Therefore, the government has decided to provide the training at the college level."

The department has called for an 'Expression of Interest (EoI) from the various training institutes and will submit the report to the government. After the government's consent and on the basis of fund allocation, the department will take further steps to train the students.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced the 'CM Vidyarthi Margadarshini' scheme in the 2022-23 annual State budget. According to the scheme, the government will provide online training for competitive examinations at the college level for all degree students. The study material is being incorporated through software enabling students to use them on their electronic gadgets. The department will select students for the training through a competitive examination. "The department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Unacademy to conduct aptitude and scholarship tests in the State. Unacademy will conduct the aptitude tests for eligible college students to identify the most meritorious students who would then receive scholarships to study for a competitive exam,"the Commissioner said.

Fresh out of the oven!

Ahead of Christmas and New Year celebrations, cakes of different shapes and sizes are on display at the 48th annual cake show at St. Joseph's Indian High School ground in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

ASME India expo held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Boeing and Ramaiah Institute of Technology have jointly organised ASME India AM 3D AERO 2022 conference and expo, a two-day event recently (from December 8).

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, DEC. 16	
RISE 06:34	SET 17:56
RISE 00:00	SET 12:27
SATURDAY, DEC. 17	
RISE 06:34	SET 17:57
RISE 00:40	SET 13:03
SUNDAY, DEC. 18	
RISE 06:35	SET 17:57
RISE 01:28	SET 13:41

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	21
Mysuru	28	17
Bengaluru	28	18

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be slight cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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Govt. planning to develop an open-air museum to honour those who worked for Kannada

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with Revenue Minister R. Ashok, Jnanpith awardee Chandrashekhar Kambar, poet H.S. Venkatesh Murthy, Lahari Velu, and family members of Shimoga Subbanna during the inauguration of the foundation in memory of renowned singer in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said the government is planning to develop an open-air museum in the city where statues of all those who have contributed to Kannada and its cultural ethos will be installed.

Speaking after inaugurating Dr. Shimoga Subbanna Pratishthana in the city on Thursday, he said the late singer's bust will definitely find a place of pride in the museum.

Mr. Bommai described himself as a "fan" of Shimoga Subbanna and said he was always fascinated at how effortlessly Subbanna owned a song and sang it. "I hope the pratishtana researches his legacy and publishes it to help future generations," he said.

Revenue Minister R. Ashok said he would ensure a park or a road in Banashankari, where the singer lived, would be named after Subbanna in honour of his memory. The pratishthana on Thursday released a music album, 'Modalu Manavanagu', of 10 songs of Subbanna. A book on his life and legacy is in the works and will be released soon, the singer's family announced.

Poets Chandrashekhar Kambar and H.S. Venkatesh Murthy recounted their association with Subbanna. "I always tell young singers to learn the love for poetry and literature from Subbanna. He always sang with his eyes closed and never saw the lyrics once. The song came from within him," Mr. Venkatesh Murthy said. Dr. Kambar recounted how serendipity brought Subbanna to him while he was making his film and Subbanna ended up singing 'Kadu Kudure...' that fetched him a national award.

Subbanna's daughter, Bageshree S., said the pratishtana would strive to honour and continue the legacy of her father. "My father had said he did not want any rituals after his death. This pratishtana is our way of remembering him henceforth," she said. There are abstract parts of his legacy like an inquisitive mind, being an argumentative Indian, never caring for caste or class. Through the pratishtana we have decided to take forward his legacies like live concerts, and his love for poetry and literature, she said.

Drug peddler arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Halasuru police are on the lookout for a 25-year-old drug peddler who allegedly set fire to the scooter of his female friend over their break-up. Two other bikes which were parked in the basement of the residential building were also damaged in the incident.

According to the police, the accused Vikram was in relationship with a tattoo artist. In March this year, Vikram was arrested and remanded to judicial custody. The police as part of the investigation questioned the victim after his arrest. Fearing legal implication, the victim started avoiding him. Enraged by this, Vikram suspected that she had tipped off the police and walked into her house and set fire to her bike and escaped on Saturday. Efforts are on to track down the accused, the police said.

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Email: investors@petronetlng.in, **Company's website:** www.petronetlng.in
CIN: L74899DL1998PLC093073 | **PAN:** AAACP8148D | **GST:** 07AAACP8148D1ZI

REQUEST TO THE SHAREHOLDERS FOR UPDATION/ REGISTRATION OF EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 110 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rules made thereunder and Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company is conducting a Postal Ballot for obtaining the approval of the shareholders for appointment of Directors. Petronet LNG Limited is appointing Directors as Additional Directors on the Board of the Company, disclosure of which is being made to the Stock Exchanges from time-to-time.

Further, pursuant to Regulation 17(1C) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, approval of Shareholders for appointment of a Director on the Board is required to be obtained either at the next General Meeting or within a time period of three months from the date of appointment, whichever is earlier, therefore, the approval of shareholders shall be obtained through the said Postal Ballot within statutory time limit.

In view of the above and pursuant to General Circular nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021, 20/2021 dated December 8, 2021 and 3/2022 dated May 5, 2022, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars"), (including any statutory amendment(s), modification(s), variation(s) or re-enactment(s) thereof for the time being in force, and as amended from time to time), the company is bound to provide a process of registration of e-mail addresses of members and state so in its public notice.

Accordingly, the Company has provided the facility to its Members for registration/updation of their email addresses and urge them to register/update their email addresses in the following manner, so as to timely receive the Notice of Postal Ballot/ Shareholder's Meeting and other related communications:

(a) Members holding shares in dematerialised mode, who have not registered/updated their email addresses with their Depository Participants, are requested to register/ update their email addresses with the Depository Participants with whom they maintain their demat account. Further, the Company has provided the said facility to the shareholders through the depositories i.e. National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) under which respective depositories shall be sending SMS with a link to the shareholders whose emails are not registered. The link shall ask shareholders to update their email address upon verification of OTP.

(b) Members holding shares in physical mode, who have not registered/updated their email addresses are requested through this advertisement to register/update the same **by writing to the RTA/ Company with details of folio number, name and attaching a self-attested copy of PAN card at investor@bigshareonline.com or at investors@petronetlng.in**.

For Petronet LNG Limited
Sd/-
Rajan Kapur
Company Secretary

Place : New Delhi
Date : 15.12.2022

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Are gig workers nobody's employees?

Delivery partners make their way through the flooded Outer Ring Road in Bengaluru during the heavy rain in August this year. (Below) Gig workers at Jalahalli Cross, Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

There are about 15 million gig workers across India. The platforms they work for don't recognise them as employees, and there is no regulatory framework

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj and Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Sreenivas G., 37, is a veteran in the home delivery industry in the city; one of the first to join Flipkart as a delivery personnel and shift to multiple food delivery platforms, and perhaps the only person to sue a food delivery firm for blocking him from the platform for protesting against slashing incentives in 2021. His story encapsulates best the ordeal of those working in the home delivery sector in Bengaluru.

"I have been working in the sector for at least a decade now. My experience over the years has been that incentives have been squeezed out completely," said Mr. Sreenivas.

"Instead, today, most of these firms even levy fines on delivery boys, who need to pay ₹1,200 even for the delivery bag and a T-shirt with the company logo. Most companies revise their incentive structures arbitrarily almost twice a year and the general trend has been drying up of earnings. I started in the food delivery industry earning over ₹1,000/day, some days even up to ₹2,000. Now, it is a herculean task to take home ₹400-500 a day, after working more than 12-14 hours a day," he said.

He became part of the unionising efforts in 2019, and attended a protest against revision of pay structure at a food delivery platform the same year, when the firm lodged multiple police complaints against him and threatened to block him from the platform.

"I wanted the job badly, and resumed work. But again, they slashed our incentives in 2021, when I was part of the protests and they blocked me. I have sued the firm in labour court," he said.

Fear psychosis

From being a fringe factor earlier, the gig workers' community is rapidly expanding now and becoming an integral part of the mainstay employment pool of the country. The low-entry barriers make it more attractive for a large number of job seekers. However, the workers – about 15 million strong across the country, with Bengaluru being the hotspot – are a troubled and exploited lot. The platforms they work for do not recognise them as employees, and in the absence of any regulatory framework, they are at the platforms' mercy.

The industry has seen incentives dry up and working conditions worsen over the years. Especially during the pandemic, there were protests by gig workers, a few organised and unionised, but many of them flash protests, indicating their frustration.

"In most cases, those who question arbitrary changes in payment structure are blocked from the platform, which essentially means job loss," said Vinay Sarathi, President, United Food Delivery Partners Union.

"Delivery agents fear that scenario. Many have apologised and returned to work accepting the new terms and conditions. When a few vocal workers are fired, a fear psychosis is created, which essentially silences others," he said. "While we have sued a food delivery platform in the case of Sreenivas, we have had success in getting the Labour Department to intervene and get some accounts unblocked, which is rare."

Lack of support

Workers recount several stories of "inhumane" treatment.

"Recently, a food delivery agent met with an accident and one of his toes was severely injured. He called the helpdesk. They only sent a replacement to deliver his order, but did not even come to his help. He went to a hospital listed on his medical insurance, but there was no cashless facility available, and he did not have any money. He went home, and using a pair of scissors he himself had to cut off the nail. Such is the support the delivery agents get from platforms," said Mr. Sarathi.

Medical insurance to delivery agents has been a result of several protests and strikes, following several of their ilk being killed in accidents on the job and their families being left with no support.

"Platforms usually claim that most of their "delivery partners" or "immediate contractors" are doing this as a side hustle, and they are not dependent on this as their primary source of income. But that is contradicted by findings on the ground," Mr. Sarathi said.

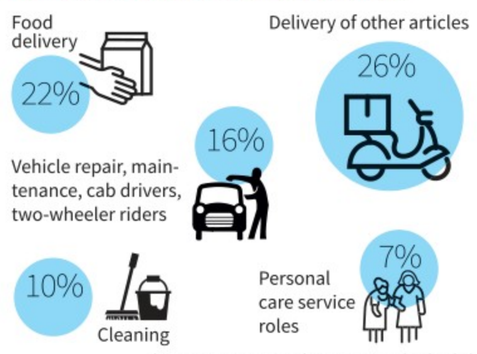
Flood of newcomers

The condition of cab drivers is no different. Tanveer Pasha, Ola, Uber Drivers and Owners' Association said many who quit the space during the pandemic haven't returned. "Many cabs were confiscated in lieu of loans during the pandemic. Most of them haven't returned. The number of cab drivers in the city has depleted by more than half over the last two years," he said. Even as some quit, the platforms seem unfazed as newcomers throng the industry. For instance, job portal apna.com alone received over 1 crore gig work job applications in 2022 of which 28 lakh applications were from women.

> The future workforce will indeed be a blended model wherein the gig economy is expected to play an important role not only as a talent management strategy, but also accelerate job creation and boost the country's economic growth
> **DEBJANI GHOSH,** Nasscom president

GIG COMMUNITY

India has an estimated 15 million gig workers



(Source: Boston Consulting Group, Indeed India)

Average monthly earning of a gig worker ₹18,000

Median age of gig worker 27 years

37% Married

29% With children

28% Migrants

22% Primary earners who support their families and choose gig work as a means of core livelihood

39% Ambitious financial planners who co-earn with other family members and view gig work as a temporary transition to a better opportunity

Others Dependents with no-to-low obligations who view gig work as a means to earn extra cash

(Source: GigPulse report by KarmaLife, a financial solutions provider for Gig & Blue-collar workers)

Looking ahead

- Number of gig workers estimated to go up to 23.5 million by 2029-30
- They would form 4.1% of India's workforce by 2030, up from 1.5% now
- 47% of the jobs are medium skilled, 22% high skilled, 31% are low skilled

(Source: India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy, Niti Aayog)

Concerns about gig-worker economy

- Lack of job security
- Uncertain employment status of workers
- Hurdles in security checks and verification
- Irregularity of wages
- Lack of structured policies
- Clarity on regulations or guidelines

(Source: Niti Aayog, Nasscom)

Importance of gig workers

Although, the industry is silent over the concerns of gig workers as they are nobody's employees, acknowledging the importance of the gig community recently was the IT tzar Azim Premji.

"The role of gig workers has been gaining importance as they infuse flexibility and talent availability in the job market. For an economy to work well and be vibrant, we have to build a culture, and system which sees firms and their employees as partners," he said while speaking at an event organised by Karnataka Employers' Association (KEA).

Debjani Ghosh, president, Nasscom said, "The future workforce will indeed be a blended model wherein the gig economy is expected to play an important role not only as a talent management strategy, but also accelerate job creation and boost the country's economic growth. However, ensuring the quality of gig workers, hurdles in security checks and verification, lack of structured policies, and clarity on regulations or guidelines for gig workers are some of the key concerns," she said.

Niti Aayog's report 'India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy', recognises lack of job security, wage irregularity, and uncertain employment status for workers, as top challenges in the sector. It recommends extending social security provisions such as sick leave, insurance and pension to gig workers and their families.

Sharon Buteau, Executive Director, LEAD at Krea University, said India was on the cusp of implementing a new social security code that bestows first-time recognition to gig workers and promises them deeper social protection. "In the coming years, we foresee this segment to grow exponentially and attain some amount of formalisation," said Indeed India head Sashi Kumar.

However, the government has made some noises on regulating the sector, but has done precious little till date.

Troubles along the road for food delivery partners

GUEST COLUMN

Mohan Mani

Earlier this year, in July and August, food delivery workers from Swiggy were on strike in different parts of Bengaluru. This followed strikes in other metro cities by both Swiggy and Zomato workers. The demands and grouses are common, primarily that the earnings are insufficient.

With more workers chasing less jobs in cities, such platforms become an easy job opportunity for anyone with a vehicle and a driving licence. This brings with it a vicious logic – with more workers available, platforms can cut down on rates; consequently, over-hiring results in less tasks and in less daily earnings.

Swiggy workers in Bengaluru said they managed to earn just ₹300 per day. The earning with incentive was ₹1,000. However, to earn incentive, they had to work 12 to 14 hours.

Net earning

A study done at the National Law School of India University showed after deducting fuel cost and apportioning the fixed costs of vehicle maintenance and paying vehicle taxes, the net earning was only around 40% of the total received. That means at the end of 12 to 14 hours, the actual net earning to the Swiggy worker, even with incentive, might be only ₹400 for the day. This is what a garment worker in the city earns in eight hours, with additional benefits of a day off and social security cover.

The National Law School study also covered one delivery worker who averaged 13 hours and 192 km driving daily over seven continuous working days. This continuous and intense effort would surely take its toll on the worker; it would also impact maintenance and depreciation of the vehicle, leaving the driver with higher costs and a run-down vehicle to navigate the roads with. It is not surprising platform workers have been going on strike.

Platforms are in continuous effort to innovate to drive down costs and retain market shares. Earlier in the year, Zomato came up with its proposal of '10 minutes delivery' which drew flak on social media of further pressure on overworked workers. The current buzz is e-bikes to reduce operational costs. Sure, they reduce costs. Many delivery workers are opting for it to improve earnings.

EV bikes

According to Yulu estimates, about 17,000 gig workers used its EVs in 2021. However, is the technology safe, given several media reports on two-wheeler e-vehicles catching fire? Is the bike ergonomically suited to long distances carrying heavy loads? The proposition introduces yet another regulation deficit – the EV bikes with maximum speeds less than 25 kmph do not require a driving licence. In crowded metro traffic, untrained delivery workers trying to push up earnings could be a potential risk even at peak 25 kmph speeds.

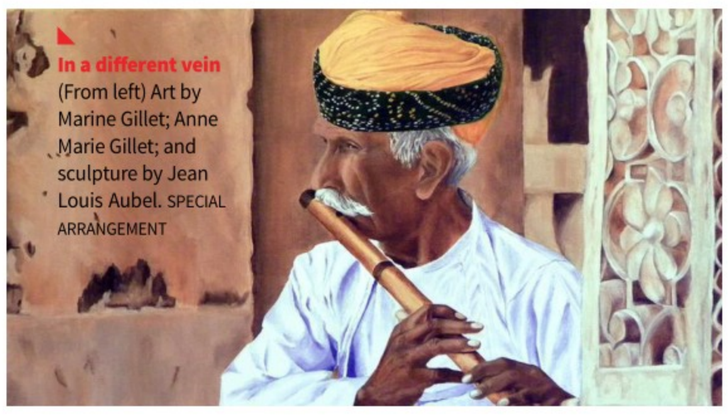
According to a Niti Aayog report (NITI Aayog (2022), India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy: Perspectives and Recommendations on the Future of Work. June, 2022), Bengaluru hosts the largest number of platform workers; it has more workers than Mumbai and Chennai combined. The city will surely be the crucible for several experiments in food delivery platforms to drive down costs. Meanwhile, it is the poor delivery "partners" who will serve as the guinea pigs for these experiments.

(The writer is a Visiting Fellow, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru)

A gig worker on his way to deliver articles to customers in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

From December 16, Chitra Kala Parishath will exhibit the works of nine French artists from the same family

Family matters



In a different vein (From left) Art by Marine Gillet; Anne Marie Gillet; and sculpture by Jean Louis Aubel. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

Frenchwoman Odette Aubel's sense of aesthetics in the mid-1900s created a legacy of art that still lives on. Today, among her daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are painters, sculptors, dancers, filmmakers and photographers, eight of whom will be displaying their work this weekend.

While on a trip to France in 2012, Geetha Bhat met Claire Hamant, Odette's daughter and it was the start of a beautiful friendship. "I am passionate about art and I was interested in the way Claire worked – she saw beauty in the most mundane things. I saw her pick up a leaf fallen by the roadside; it was a work of art when I next visited her place," says Geetha Bhat, founder of the Centre for Revival of Indigenous Art (CFRIA) in Bengaluru.

"Claire visited India for the first time in 2013 and was utterly taken up by our country, clicking thousands of photographs. On a subsequent visit, I saw she had painted dozens of canvases inspired by her trip, all her impressions had found expression through her art."

With frequent travels to each other's homes, Geetha eventually met the other members of Claire's family – her sisters, their children and their grandchildren – and realised four generations of the family were each artistically gifted in their own way. "Her nephew Marc had been to Rajasthan and captured that State's glory through his photographs, which in turn inspired his mother who had never been here to create a series of paintings."

Geetha was so amazed by how attuned the family was to art, she decided to curate an exhibition centred around their work. The result was Creativity Across Generations, which showcases their creativity through myriad genres.

Among the 85 photographs, 22 paintings, four ceramic works, four textile works and around 20 graphic prints on display in Bengaluru, will be Odette's oil painting of a few morning glory blossoms, a piece which enjoyed pride of place in the family home. "All four generations of our family grew up around this work. All our art, creativity and serendipity came from my mother," says Claire Hamant over the phone from France.

With prices starting from ₹5,000, art from Creativity Across Generations will be on display at Chitrakala Parishath from December 17 to 25.

A magical, musical blend

Singer-songwriter Antonio Lizana will be performing at Windmills this weekend

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

The difference between slow cooked and fast food is the luxury of time, a notion Antonio Lizana experienced first hand while crafting his latest album *Una Realidad Diferente* (A Different Reality).

The Spanish artiste known for his signature style of blending contemporary jazz with traditional flamenco, says his love affair with music began when he was 10 years old. "Flamenco is our traditional music, it is in our souls, and despite being so young I had already begun working with that style of music."

Seamless Antonio Lizana. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In India to promote *Una Realidad Diferente* with four of his bandmates, he says,"The title *A Different Reality* signifies two things – first, our music is different as we put together two genres of flamenco and jazz, a style that had not been attempted before. Second, most of the lyrics are an invitation to leave a life of boring routine and look at reality with new eyes."

Antonio Lizana will perform at Windmills on December 16 and 17. For details log on to www.windmills-india.com.

STEPOUT

Live music

Radha Thomas Quartet will feature Radha and Aman Mahajan on the piano, with whom she has composed a vast range of original music. The duo will be accompanied by Joey Sharma on the guitar and Dhani Muniz on bass.

The quartet will perform on December 16 at The Courtyard, 105 KH Road, Shanthinagar and on December 17 at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. The show begins at 7.30pm on both days.

Tickets, at ₹750, on www.skillboxes.com and www.insider.in, respectively.

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INBRIEF

Congress forms committee to shortlist candidates

AICC chief M. Mallikarjun Kharge has formed Karnataka Pradesh Election Committee to shortlist candidates and oversee upcoming Assembly elections in the State. A total of 37 leaders have been named in the committee. The party had received 1,350 applications seeking ticket for 224 Assembly constituencies in the State. The committee consists of several senior leaders, including D.K. Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah, G. Parameshwara, and M. Veerappa Moily, among others. The committee will shortlist candidates for all the Assembly seats and sent to the high command for approval.

V.S. Patil, former BJP MLA, from Yellapur joined Congress in the presence of Mr. Shivakumar, Mr. Siddaramaiah, and other senior leaders at the party office.

G20 delegation visits ARTPARK at IISc

The foreign delegation of finance heads and central bank deputies of G20 visited AI & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) at IISc. They also visited Vidhana Soudha, Cubbon Park, and Bangalore palace. ARTPARK was represented by five ventures under Startup @ ARTPARK that are identifying solutions for the developing world through autonomous systems, drones, air cargo, augmented telepresence, and robotic components. The delegation was impressed by the work and spoke to the teams around the economic impact of their solutions. Egyptian delegates said that they will be looking forward to collaborating and building similar solutions in their country. The Turkish delegate acknowledged the importance of the telepresence solution.

'BJP highlighting Mangaluru blast to divert attention from voter data theft'

DKS accuses the BJP government of postponing elections to local bodies because it has 'no trust in the electorate and democracy, and fears defeat'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Shivakumar has alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party government was highlighting the pressure cooker blast in an autorickshaw in Mangaluru on November 19 to divert attention of the people from the 'vote gate'.

Addressing mediapersons here on Thursday, Mr. Shivakumar accused the BJP of planting the blast case to exploit people's sentiments for its political gains in the 2023 Assembly elections and hush up lapses in the administration.

"Is it an act of terror like in Mumbai, Delhi, Pulwama or Jammu-Kashmir? The BJP government has no significant achievement to showcase to voters. By projecting the blast in a big way, the government wants to steal votes... Whom do you call a terrorist? What was shown on TV? What was shown in the media?....nothing," Mr. Shivakumar said.

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

"The BJP government claimed it was a cooker blast. Where was the cooker? Where did the terrorist come from? You planted it and the DIG visited the spot with great urgency. It (the cooker blast case) was an attempt to divert the attention from vote-gate (deletion of names from the electoral rolls in Bengaluru). You think people are fools? Today, you are raking up the sentiments of voters for electoral gains," he alleged.

> The BJP government claimed it was a cooker blast. Where was the cooker? Where did the terrorist come from? You planted it and the DIG visited the spot with great urgency.
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR**
> KPCC president

A day after the incident, Karnataka DG&IGP Praveen Sood announced that it was not an accident but an "act of terror". On November 30, NIA took over the investigation from the Mangaluru police.

The cooker blast took place in an autorickshaw in Mangaluru. Mohammed Shariq, who was carrying the cooker containing explosive substances, and autorickshaw driver Purushottam Poojari were injured. NIA sleuths have questioned Shariq.

Delay of polls

Mr. Shivakumar accused the BJP government of postponing elections to local bodies because it has no trust in the electorate and democracy, and fears defeat.

On Wednesday, the High Court of Karnataka imposed a cost of ₹5 lakh on the Karnataka government for "delaying" the panchayat elections.

The KPCC chief alleged that the BJP has been playing with the sentiments of the people to beat anti-incumbency against the State government. "Why are you (government) scared of conducting elections to zilla panchayats, taluk panchayats and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike?"

"The BJP is counting days, and it will remain in power only for the next 100 days (elections to the Legislative Assembly are scheduled in April-May)," he said.

Citing the results of surveys conducted by the Congress at different levels and during various periods, Mr. Shivakumar claimed that his party would win 135 seats while the BJP would win 60. "The electorate is fed up with rampant corruption in the administration, unemployment and spiralling prices of essential commodities," he said.

Shivakumar's statement is a threat to national security: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking objection to the statement of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Shivakumar on Mangaluru cooker blast, Kannada and Culture Minister V. Sunil Kumar, who is also in-charge of Dakshina Kannada district, on Thursday said that the Congress leader's statement, sympathetic to the cooker bomb blast accused, threatens national security.

"It is condemnable that he has made such statements to appease voters. He can as well state that all terrorists are his brothers," the Minister said in a statement.

The Minister said that Mr. Shivakumar has also expressed doubts about the tweets of Director General and Inspector General of Police in this regard besides expressing apprehension about NIA investigation. "Should the investigation be then through the KPCC Minority Cell? Even in the past when violence broke out in D.J. Halli and K.G Halli, Mr. Shivakumar spoke on the same lines. He has termed those who were involved in the violence as his brothers. Now he is expressing sympathy for those involved in cooker blast," the Minister said.

Nadda terms Rahul Gandhi's walk as yatra for 'repenting his forefathers divisive measures'

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Unleashing a bitter verbal attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Bharatiya Janata Party national president J.P. Nadda termed the Bharat Jodo Yatra being led by Mr. Gandhi as regret yatra organised to repent the divisive measures of his forefathers.

"It is not a Bharat Jodo yatra. It is Bharat todo yatra. It is also a regret yatra to repent the work of his forefathers who left no stone unturned to divide the country. It was the great people of India and the Bhāratīya Jan Sangh [the previous version of the BJP] who united and strengthened the country," Mr. Nadda said, while addressing a public meeting in Koppal on Thursday.

BJP national president J.P. Nadda, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, and party State unit president Nalin Kumar Kateel at a public meeting in Koppal on Thursday. SRIDHAR KAVALI

The event was organised to virtually inaugurate party offices in several districts. Referring to the abrogation of Article 370 by the BJP-led government at the Centre, Mr. Nadda said that it was Mr. Gandhi's great-grandfather who had, in a way, kept Jammu and Kashmir out of India by giving it special status under Article 370 of the Constitution. "It was the Modi government that abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution and brought that State into the Indian Union. Rahul Gandhi went to Jawaharlal Nehru University and stood with people who raised slogans in support of terrorist Afzal Guru. On the development front, the Congress doesn't know anything," Mr. Nadda said.

Offices inaugurated

Mr. Nadda also inaugurated the party office at Kavalur Layout in Koppal city, apart from virtually opening the party district offices in Vijayapura, Raichur, Ballari, Bidar, Bagalkot, Chamarajanagar, Kolar, Haveri, and Gadag districts and laying the foundation stone for building three more offices in the State.

Ashwath Narayan invites U.P. CM to Ramanagaram

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

IT & BT Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, who is also in-charge of Ramanagaram district, met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday along with 150 devotees from Ramanagaram district who are on a pilgrimage to Ram temple in Ayodhya and requested him to visit the district to guide the proposed construction of a temple at Ramadevara Betta. According to a release, the Minister told the U.P. Chief Minister that there was a plan to build a temple at Ramadevara Betta of Ramanagaram on the lines of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. He invited Yogi Adityanath to visit Ramanagaram.

Yediyurappa rules out being sidelined in the party

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Saying that he is one among the few leaders who worked day in and day out to build the BJP from scratch in Karnataka, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa ruled out the possibility of being sidelined in the party.

"The allegation is meaningless and we are united in the party. Our aim is to win 150 seats in the next Assembly elections, and retain power in the State. For my personal reasons, I am not in a position to attend party functions these days. Since the party's national president J.P. Nadda is arriving in the State, I came here," Mr. Yediyurappa said in his brief interaction with media representatives in Koppal on Thursday.

> The allegation is meaningless and we are united in the party. For my personal reasons, I am not in a position to attend party functions these days.
>
> **B.S. YEDIYURAPPA**
> Former Chief Minister

He said that his party colleague and former Minister G. Janardhan Reddy would be engaged in party work after the cases against him were settled.

"Mr. Reddy met and spoke to me personally. There is no question of sidelining him. There are some cases against him. He will return to actively work for the party once they are settled. Even party leaders are in favour of involving Mr. Reddy. There is no ambiguity on this issue. We will decide how and when he could be engaged in the future," he said.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai also dismissed the allegation of Mr. Yediyurappa being sidelined in the party. When media representatives questioned the lack of an official invite to Mr. Yediyurappa for the party programme in Koppal on Thursday, Mr. Bommai said that all the party's activities are taking place under the guidance of Mr. Yediyurappa. "We have a father-son relationship. Those who are expecting cracks in the party would be disappointed," he said.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through e-procurement portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009

Name of the work	Amount put to tender / EMD
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE(P)-1/1085/2022-23	Dated: 13-12-2022
Consultancy Services to identify the gaps in sewerage system, assessment of sewage entry in to SWD and water bodies located in 110 villages and surrounding areas of BBMP with comprehensive analysis.	Rs. 161.00 Lakhs / Rs.2.41 Lakhs
The Last date for submission of completed tender documents is on **31.12.2022 upto 16:00 hrs.** Date of opening of tender is on **02.01.2023 at 16:30 hrs.**	Sd/- Chief Engineer (Project)

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009

IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(WWM-P-E)/DCE(WWM)/5545/2022-23	Dated: 15-12-2022
Work of Design, Construction, Upgradation and Rehabilitation of existing 6 MLD capacity sewage treatment plant at Kadugodi, Bangalore	Rs. 4.93 Crores / Rs.8.73 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(WWM-P-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/5543/2022-23	Dated: 15-12-2022
Work of Design and Construction of Upgradation of existing 5 MLD capacity STP at Chikkabanavara (Phase II) with SBR Technology on Turnkey Contact.	Rs. 315.30 Lakhs / Rs.5.58 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(WWM-P-E)/DCE(WWM)/5547/2022-23	Dated: 15-12-2022
Work of Design, Construction, Upgradation and Rehabilitation of existing 2 MLD capacity sewage treatment plant at Ulsoor, Bangalore	Rs. 2.05 Crores / Rs.3.61 Lakhs
The Last date for submission of completed tender documents is on **16.01.2023 upto 17:30 hrs.** Date of opening of tender is on **18.01.2023 at 16:00 hrs.**	Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the undersigned office during the working hours.

DIPR/CP/BCPL/3539/2022-23

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SHRI S Srinivasan (88) S/o LateSwaminathaIyer, Kuruvimalai and Retd Chief Controller, Southern Railway passed away peacefully on Dec 14,2022 at his residence 6/12, Ganapathi Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai 99. Survived by wife Kanthimathi, Sons :Srikanth (9566156748) , Shankar (94458 60987), Daughters: Nalini (94442 81750) , Vijayalakshmi (98675 58362).

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

12th ANNIVERSARY

Born: 04.12.1960 Died: 16.12.2010
Mr. G.PADMANABHAN
MANAGING DIRECTOR
Pay our homage with thanks.
Family Members & Employees of
INDELECT TECHNOLOGIES PVT. LTD, CHENNAI
Ct: 93802 43402 / 9382543299

DEATH

Remembrance

Born: **06.11.1948**
Died: **11.12.2022**

Dr. V. BALASUBRAMANIAN
B.Sc., MD, DM (Gastro) FRCP (UK)
Patron - Indian Society of Gastroenterology - TN Chapter,
Secretary - Tamilnadu Gastroenterologist Trust.

Life without you around to guide, coach, instruct, and provide stability again will be challenging for us. You have been a great leader and we draw inspiration from you all the time.
Thank you for the life well spent. Adieu, sir

Mourned by,
Members - Indian Society of Gastroenterology - Tamilnadu Chapter
Trustees, Tamilnadu Gastroenterologist Trust

RESPECTFUL HOMAGE

It is with deepest sorrow that we inform you of the demise of

Sri. V. Sriram
1941 - 2022
(Son of Brahmasri K.S. Vaidyanathan & Grandson of Brahmasri R.S.A Sankarier)

Left for heavenly abode on December 14, 2022

His love and munificence will be missed by all :
Shriya, Hamsini & Appadurai, Family & Friends

HC seeks CBI view on bail petition in ISRO case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday sought the response of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on the anticipatory bail pleas of all accused in a case registered in connection with the alleged conspiracy to frame former Indian Space Research Organisation scientist S. Nambi Narayanan in a 1994 espionage case.

The plea was filed by former Director-General of Police Siby Mathew, former Gujarat DGP R.B. Sreekumar, two police officers, and an Intelligence Bureau official.

The Supreme Court on December 2 quashed the bails granted earlier by the High Court to the accused and directed the High Court to finally dispose of the petitions on merit in four weeks.

Music sabhas should give priority to Tamil songs in concerts, says Stalin

The T.N. Chief Minister was inaugurating the 96th annual conference and concerts of the Music Academy; honouring the Sangita Kalanidhi designates, he said that nurturing music will not only nurture art, but also Tamil language

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday called upon music sabhas such as the Music Academy to give priority to Tamil music and songs in concerts.

"Tamil literature is a treasure house of thousands of Tamil songs. They should be sung in music sabhas. Whether it is bhakti music or film music or light music or pop and rock music, it should be in Tamil; this is my desire," he said, inaugurating the 96th annual conference and concerts of the Music Academy.

Mr. Stalin said art would survive only if the language survived. "Nurturing music will not only nurture art, but also the Tamil language. All sabhas and artistes should keep this in mind," said the Chief Minister who also honoured the Music Academy's Sangita Kalanidhi designates vocalist Neyveli R. Santhanagopalan (2020), mridhangam player Tiruvarur Bhaktavatsalam (2021) and violinists Lalgudi GJR Krishnan and his sister GJR Vijayalakshmi.

M.K. Stalin, Minister Thangam Thennarasu and Music Academy president N. Murali with Sangita Kalanidhi designates. R. RAGU

Pointing out that Tamil music was ancient and rich and the Tamil literary work *Silapathikaram* was actually a musical epic, Mr. Stalin said the link between Tamil and music could be known by reading *Thevaram*, *Thiruvachagam*, *Nalayira Divyaprabandam*, *Periyapuranam*, and other works.

Recalling Music Academy president N. Murali's interview that his organisation was promoting "unity in diversity" through music, the Chief Minister said the country needed the idea very much. "You should not think that the idea is confined only to political parties. It should be the idea of every individual and organisation," he said.

Mr. Stalin also said that while he regularly read the publications of The Hindu Group, the two books that outnumbered the books he had been receiving as gifts were *Maperum Tamil Kanavu*, a book on DMK founder C.N. Annadurai and *Therkilirunthu Oru Suryan*, a book on Kalaignar, published by the group.

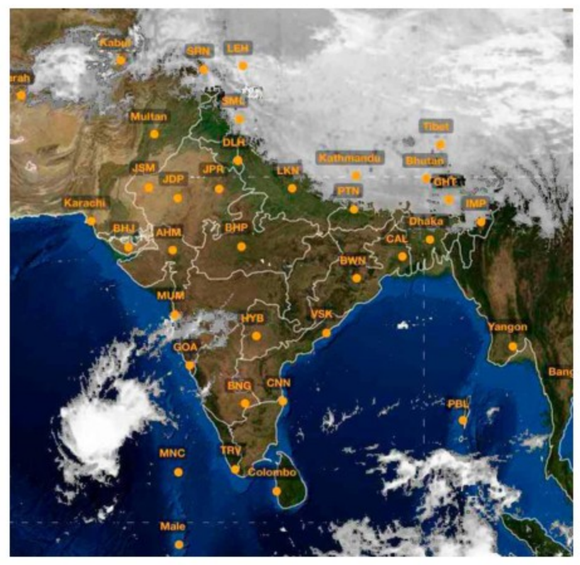
'No small task'

Mr. Stalin also placed on record his appreciation for Music Academy saying that it was no small task that it had sustained itself for 96 years. "You can start anything, but running it successfully is not easy. It remains a Vedanthangal for music lovers from all over the world. It is the first function I have attended without any tension after assuming office as Chief Minister," he added.

Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu participated in the event. Secretary of the Academy V. Srikanth proposed a vote of thanks.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and north Rajasthan. Squally wind likely to prevail over southeast & southwest Bay of Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	26.7	14.6	Kozhikode	66	32.5	22.1
Ahmedabad	—	31.7	20.5	Kurnool	—	33.5	21.0
Aizawl	—	—	9.9	Lucknow	—	26.0	9.6
Allahabad	—	26.3	10.4	Madurai	0.7	32.5	21.0
Bengaluru	—	27.6	18.0	Mangaluru	—	33.0	21.9
Bhopal	—	—	16.0	Mumbai	—	34.9	24.4
Bhubaneswar	—	31.6	17.9	Mysuru	—	30.0	20.2
Chandigarh	—	22.9	6.9	New Delhi	—	23.4	6.4
Chennai	—	30.5	22.3	Patna	—	25.0	10.3
Coimbatore	0.1	30.3	21.8	Port Blair	—	29.6	26.2
Dehradun	—	22.8	4.9	Puducherry	—	31.2	21.6
Gangtok	—	15.1	9.8	Pune	—	31.0	18.9
Goa	—	33.7	22.9	Raipur	—	32.0	18.9
Guwahati	—	27.8	15.5	Ranchi	—	26.2	13.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	15.0	Shillong	—	16.1	7.5
Hyderabad	—	31.1	18.8	Shimla	—	19.0	9.0
Imphal	—	23.8	6.1	Srinagar	—	12.3	-3.2
Jaipur	—	25.6	10.0	Thiruvananthapuram	29	32.3	21.8
Kochi	40	30.8	22.4	Tiruchi	—	30.1	23.0
Kohima	—	20.0	7.0	Vijayawada	—	30.8	21.5
Kolkata	—	26.8	16.0	Visakhapatnam	—	31.0	20.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.23	..89	.43	35	57	.....
Bengaluru	.12	..20	.36	...101	77	.....
Chennai	.23	..40	.35	...121	96	.....
Delhi	.16	..62	.23	...235	...218	.....
Hyderabad	...3	..33	.38	...134	...132	.....
Kolkata	.17	..38	.48	...299	...227	.....
Lucknow	.23	..39	.72	...136	...140	.....
Mumbai	.38	142	110	...127	...121	.....
Pune	..—	..63	.78	.....—	.....—	.....—
Visakhapatnam	.26	..78	.30	...168	...198	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Purnia, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 460 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

T.N. stops auction of stolen Nataraja idol in France

R. Sivaraman
CHENNAI

The Idol Wing CID (IWCID) of the Tamil Nadu police on Thursday successfully stopped the scheduled auctioning of a bronze idol of Nataraja by *Christies.com*, France.

The rare variety bronze idol was suspected to have been stolen from Kayathar in Thoothukudi district half a century ago.

The officers of the special wing came across the auction notice issued by *Christies.com*, France, listing a bronze 'Shiva Nataraja' idol for auction on Friday at a bid price of 2,00,000 to 3,00,000 Euros (₹1.76 crore to ₹2.64 crore approximately). The bronze idol belongs to the Vijayanagara period – 15th-16th century. Director General of Police, IWCID, K. Jayanth Murali said, "As the idol was listed as belonging to Tamil Nadu, we decided to examine it when we came across an image taken in 1958 by the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP), which bore resemblance to the idol of Nataraja listed for auction in France. IFP photo records confirmed that the listed idol was a stolen one. After examination by an expert, we sent the records to the auction house through authorities concerned to stop the bid. Our efforts succeeded and the proposed auctioning has been stopped."

Stolen in 1972

The IFP image of the Nataraja idol was taken in 1958 in Kothanda Rameshwara Temple, Kayathar, Kovilpatti, now in Thoothukudi district (earlier in composite Tirunelveli district). The HR&CE (Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments) Department records reveal that the idol was stolen in 1972 and was not recovered thereafter.

The records of the HR&CE Department too clearly establish the idol was stolen in 1972 and the Kovilpatti police station Loose Leaf Index has entries to establish the same.

"We have now insisted that the idol should be returned to India as we have adequately established the ownership as required under the UNESCO Convention of 1970," said Mr. Jayanth Murali.

Has border row message evoked different reactions?

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Union government's message to the governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra seemed to have evoked different reactions from Kannada organisations and Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti members in Belagavi.

After the discussion with the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Maharashtra, Union Home Minister Amit Shah told journalists in New Delhi that the two States should maintain law and order and not allow disruptive activities, as the border dispute has to be settled in court based on Constitutional principles and not on the streets.

He announced the formation of two committees for better coordination. A committee of six Ministers, three from each State, will meet regularly to resolve all differences, while a committee of four IPS officers, two from each side, will ensure better law and order management.

Sources said that Maharashtra Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister told Mr. Shah that Karnataka's act of barring Maharashtra Ministers from visiting Belagavi was wrong.

However, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai replied that it was the right thing to do under the circumstances. This message from the Centre has evoked varied responses. The action committee of Kannada organisations has asked Maharashtra to abide by the message and not to support the activities of MES that keeps raising the border issue.

14 villages in Maharashtra want to merge with bordering Telangana

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Amid the boundary row between Maharashtra and Karnataka, the villages contiguous to Telangana in the Chandrapur district of the western State have also raised the demand for inclusion in the neighbouring Telugu State.

At least 14 villages bordering Telangana demanded inclusion as they were 'attracted' to the development and welfare schemes, including 'Rythu Bandhu', 'Dalita Bandhu', 'Rythu Bima', and free power supply to farmers, initiated by Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

With both States involved in a territorial dispute over an 80 sq. km stretch of land located on the border of Jivti taluka of Chandrapur district, and Kerameri Mandal in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district in neighbouring State since 1956 and claims the territory as their part, the villages are administered by both Maharashtra and Telangana as the matter is pending in the Supreme Court. The villagers have dual voter cards and many have ration cards from both States.

Joint concern: Villagers say that merging with Telangana will allow them to reap more benefits. FILE PHOTO

Parandoli and Anthapur gram panchayats have a population of over 6,000, most of whom are Marathi-speaking SCs and some Muslims who migrated from drought-hit Nanded, Parbhani, and Jalna districts of Marathwada between 1970 and 1971, Congress leader and Rajura MLA Subhash Ramchandrarao Dhote told *The Hindu*.

"80% of the people in those villages want to stay with Maharashtra, and the issue was being fueled up unnecessarily," he said.

According to Mr. Dhote, a handful of villagers want to merge with Telangana, and their demand is illegitimate, as the matter is still pending with the Supreme Court. "They are the citizens of Maharashtra and will continue to remain so."

Villagers maintain that their demand to merge with Telangana is valid as they are getting more benefits from the schemes of the KCR government.

Karnataka HC fiat on school safety measures

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that circular issued in 2021 by the State government on safety measures to be implemented in all the schools cannot be made applicable to the institutions established prior to 2017-18, while considering renewal of recognition of such schools.

The court said that the government's circular was issued in violation of the judgment of the apex court as far as existing schools are concerned and certain safety measures cannot be enforced on the schools that were established prior to 2017-18.

Justice E.S. Indiresh passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Associated Managements' of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka, which had challenged the circulars issued July 7, 2021 and November 2, 2021. The safety measures included building safety, fire safety, storing toxic materials, evaluation of structural aspect of school building etc.

As the government subsequently issued another circular in June 2022 on safety measures, the court said that it is open to the petitioner to challenge it separately on the ground that it too is contrary to apex court's judgment.

Man trapped amid rocks rescued after 44 hours

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A man trapped between two huge boulders inside a cave for almost 44 hours in Kamareddy district of Telangana was rescued by officials on Thursday.

An earthmover was deployed at the location to break the 15-foot cave in which the man was trapped. The man has been shifted to a hospital.

About 120 officials were deployed for the rescue operation. On Tuesday, the 36-year-old Raju and his friend Ashok had gone for hunting to the Yellareddy forest. Mr. Raju's mobile phone fell between rocks and he got stuck when he reached down to pull out his phone.

ED targeting me because of upcoming Karnataka election, DKS tells Delhi HC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Karnataka Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar, facing a money laundering case, told the Delhi High Court on Thursday that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) was taking action against him after waiting for two years due of the upcoming Assembly elections in May.

Mr. Shivakumar, represented by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, contended that there was neither any attachment of property in the case nor any proceeds of crime in terms of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

"Why have they waited for two years to proceed in the matter? They knew of these facts in 2020.... Because the elections are in May. I can understand if there was some activity I was indulging in and it needed to be heard today and therefore this matter has to be decided," Mr. Sibal said.

Mr. Sibal's submission before the High Court came while it was hearing Mr. Shivakumar's plea to quash the entire investigation including summons issued to him in the Enforcement Case Information Record (ECIR) registered by the ED in 2020.

Mr. Sibal argued that the investigation in the present instance, pursuant to a case registered in 2020, cannot be sustained as it reinvestigates the offence which the agency has already investigated in a previous case lodged in 2018 and filed a complaint.

In his plea, Mr. Shivakumar submitted that the second set of proceedings is a "complete abuse of process of law" and also violates the constitutional provisions relating to "double jeopardy".

"The entire aspect of disproportionate assets allegedly acquired by the petitioner when he was Minister/MLA in the State of Karnataka was thoroughly investigated by the respondent in the first ECIR and thus, the initiation of separate proceedings on the same set of facts and ingredients of the offence is impermissible in law and amounts to mala fide exercise of power by the respondent," the plea stated.

Plea opposed

The ED opposed the petition saying that the two ECIRs against Mr. Shivakumar are based on different set of facts and even the scheduled offence in both the cases are different and the quantum of proceeds of crime involved is also different.

Amid rise in footfall, separate queues for children, elderly women at Sabarimala temple

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

Taking note of the sharp rise in the inflow of pilgrims, authorities have decided to open a separate queue for children, elderly women and the aged in Sabarimala.

A decision to this effect was made during a review meeting convened by Devaswom Minister K. Radhakrishnan at Pampa on Thursday. The meeting decided to arrange more parking space for vehicles at Nilackal and directed the various departments to address the issues that come to their respective attention on the spot.

Pilgrims continue to flock the temple despite a daily cap on pilgrims. LEJU KAMAL

The meeting, attended by Local Self-Government Minister M.B. Rajesh and Revenue Minister K. Rajan, deliberated the troubles faced by the devotees in performing the pilgrimage.

They included the regulation of vehicles along the pilgrimage route, which has forced the devotees to spend several hours on the road without access to basic necessities, and the restrictions on crowd movements at Pampa and the Sannidhanam that have led to long queues along the trekking path.

Old is not gold

Old Pension Scheme works as electoral strategy but is imprudent fiscal policy

With the freshly minted Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, reiterating that the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) will be restored by the newly elected Congress-led government, the State would now become the fourth to do so. It is no surprise that the promise of the return of OPS – it guarantees pension at 50% of the last drawn basic pay – boosted the beleaguered party as government employees and retirees form a significant portion of the hilly State's electorate. A Lokniti-CSDS post-poll survey supported the fact that awareness (74% of those surveyed) and support for the Congress's promise was high (70%), possibly playing a role in the party pipping the BJP to pole position – there was a single percentage point difference between them. Government staff seem to prefer the scheme as it allows them to avert their contribution of 10% of their basic pay and dearness allowance towards the employee pension funds, as envisaged in the National Pension Scheme (NPS) since inception in 2004. But, concomitantly, reverting to OPS will tax the State's exchequer. Data show that pension payments form nearly 25.6% of States' own tax revenue – 80% for Himachal – but fall to close to a still substantial 12% of the total revenue receipts of States. Along with wages and salaries of government staff, the burden is set to be quite high.

States reverting to OPS can achieve some short-term gains as they need not put up the matching contribution of 10% towards employee pension funds. But with a greying population, the burden of payments will fall on future generations. An argument can be made for enhancing State revenues by further taxation to fund the scheme. The NPS, that has been in place and which allows employees to contribute to their pension corpus from their salaries with matching contribution from the government, is more robust as this corpus is invested through Pension Fund Managers and eases the State's burden. The NPS has built a substantial corpus and subscriber base over time. The Congress-led UPA government had indeed taken forward the pension reforms by the previous NDA regime and this is how the NPS has become relevant over the years. Breaking a consensus on pension reforms and reverting to OPS amounts to an imprudent option as it will only benefit organised government sector employees, increase the fiscal burden of carrying these payments and take up a significant portion of the State's budget, thereby curtailing its outlays on general welfare as a whole. This holds good even if it allows for short-term electoral dividends and caters to those who form the backbone of the government machinery.

A delayed end

Morocco rode on the hopes of Arabs and Africa almost to the very last

The very mention of Morocco brings to mind a tapestry of images ranging from a shade of the alluring blue of Chefchaouen to the iconic 1940s film *Casablanca*. The mixed layers of its African-Arab culture and language besides French colonial history add further gloss to Morocco's charm. This beguiling assortment took on another jewel – the Atlas Lions's soaring march in the FIFA World Cup at Doha. Morocco's dream run, that ended with a 0-2 defeat against France in the semifinal, had all the elements that elevate sport especially the trope of an underdog shredding established hierarchies. Achraf Hakimi's men topped Group F and made it to the knockouts, a feat previously achieved by his countrymen in the 1986 Mexico edition that was coated with Diego Maradona's halo. In the current World Cup, Morocco's giant-killing act deflated Belgium, Spain and Portugal. There were celebrations back home and in Africa, while host Qatar and West Asia saw a kindred Arab spirit coursing through the squad. This duality was acknowledged when midfielder Azzedine Ounahi said: "We have entered into history for Africa and even for the Arabs." A tight, at times ugly, defence that refused to be breached except for a bruising self-goal lit up Morocco's path and made opponents wary until the French found a way to stay ahead.

In a championship that is an ode to the genius of Lionel Messi, Morocco's exemplary performance has proved to be a fairytale. The first African nation to qualify for a World Cup semifinal, Morocco along with Senegal, Japan and South Korea showed that the Afro-Asian combine can offer an alternate narrative to football's rousing tales centred on South America and Europe. There is also hope nestling within the Moroccan ranks. Hakimi's mother used to be a help in Spain and his embrace of her after a game was high on gratitude. The belief to succeed against mightier teams was evident through the performances of playmaker Hakim Ziyech, midfielder Sofian Amrabet and custodian Yassine Bounou; the last named was a fortress under the crossbar. Coach Walid Regragui's troops speaking Darija, Berber, English or French, found a common expression through football and an excited commentator said, 'impossible is not Moroccan'. It rang true until France walked in with other ideas. Along with Morocco from Group F, Croatia too walked the talk, stunning Brazil in the quarterfinal. It was a result that made the other Latin American behemoth Argentina a bit circumspect in the early part of the semifinal until Messi's class undid his counterpart Luka Modric's dreams. Now the third-place tussle beckons Morocco and Croatia.

The big message from the Kurhani byelection

Asim Ali

is a political researcher and columnist

The three years between now and 2025 could well see the last in a series of battles being waged between Mandal and Hindutva in the Hindi heartland. If the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) defeats the combined forces of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Janata Dal (United) in the next Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, we might see further fragmentation of Mandal forces and the consolidation of Hindutva. Over the last decade, we have already witnessed this process unfold, without much challenge, in Uttar Pradesh.

On paper, going by caste arithmetic, the Mandal side appears a lot stronger in Bihar. The social base of the RJD-JD(U) combine (the Yadav, Kurmis and Muslims) is 35%-40%; it is around 15% for the BJP (upper castes). In other words, the BJP needs to win over a clear majority of the swing blocks of Dalits and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs, or non-dominant Other Backward Classes) to forge a winning coalition. Even in the 2015 elections, when the BJP alliance was up against a similar MGB (*Mahagathbandhan*) coalition, the saffron alliance did win over a slender majority of the EBCs and a plurality of Dalits. Yet, the leads the BJP alliance garnered among these segments were not the kind of overwhelming support they had hoped for in order to offset the structural advantage of the superior social base of the MGB. The MGB racked up an 8% vote-share gap with the BJP, on the back of an upwards of two-thirds support among the Yadavs, Kurmis and Muslims.

The coalition has fallen short

Therefore, one central question that might decide the political fate of Bihar is whether this Mandal social base would stay intact over the next few years. The bypoll of Kurhani (in Bihar on December 5) provided us with the first real electoral test of this question – and the MGB has fallen short. Unlike the Gopalganj seat that the BJP won in last month's bypoll for the fifth consecutive time, it had won Kurhani only once before, in 2015. The seat has a substantial population of Kushwahas (one half of the larger Kurmi-Kushwaha caste amalgam), in addition to a large presence of Muslims and Yadavs, on the back of whose support the RJD had wrested the seat in the last election. The JD(U) was contesting this time, its first match-up with its erstwhile partner since the BJP-JD(U) split. Both Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav had campaigned, making it a 'prestige battle', yet they could not prevent the BJP from winning, throwing up the first signs of doubts about the chemistry between their social bases.

> In the emerging politics of Bihar, the grand social coalition of the *Mahagathbandhan* might be formidable, but it has enough contradictions within to make it beatable

It must be noted that the Yadavs and the Kurmis are competing dominant agrarian castes who have (barring the 2015 exception) largely remained in opposite political camps over the last three decades. According to local journalists in Kurhani, the Yadavs stayed cold towards the JD(U) candidate despite Tejashwi Yadav's emotional pitch to voters over the health of his father. Of course, the caste chemistry in bypoll elections can turnaround in State or national elections, where larger ideological narratives tend to subsume, if not subordinate, localised competition. Yet, it is safe to say that the echoes from Kurhani would not help bridge the trust-deficit between the Kurmis and the Yadavs.

Even after the 2015 triumph of the MGB, there were murmurs from the JD(U) side that the RJD had secured the lion's share of seats in the alliance because of the lopsided transfer of votes between the alliance constituents. The survey data (CSDS-Lokniti) from the 2015 election partly validates that claim: whereas the Kurmis voted identically for JD(U) candidates and RJD candidates (67% and 69%, respectively), there was a significant gap in the Yadav votes for JD(U) candidates and RJD candidates (60% and 74%, respectively). Kurhani, incidentally, was one of those seats in 2015 where the JD(U)'s Kurmi block candidate (Manoj Singh Kushwaha, who also fell short this time) lost to the BJP despite the favourable social arithmetic of the constituency. However, the relatively better performance of the RJD in that election, compared to the JD(U), also owed itself to the RJD's better mobilisation of the EBCs and Dalits, according to the same survey.

Impact on Bihar's politics

The significance of Kurhani in the emerging politics of Bihar lies not just in the result itself but also its aftermath. At the centre of it was Upendra Singh Kushwaha, a key Kushwaha leader who joined the JD(U) last year and was immediately appointed the Chairman of the Parliamentary Board of the party.

After the bypoll loss, Mr. Kushwaha urged his party to work "according to the wishes and expectations of the people" rather than imposing its own vision on the people. This was received in political circles as him trying to attribute the Kurhani loss either to the alliance with the RJD or to the liquor ban, Nitish Kumar's signature policy whose effectiveness Mr. Kushwaha had questioned.

Until 2013, when Mr. Kushwaha split from the JD(U) and formed his own Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP), he was considered a potential successor to Nitish Kumar in the party. The RLSP promptly aligned with the BJP and threatened to break the larger Kurmi block fashioned by Nitish Kumar (4% Kurmis and 8% Kushwahas melded together in a single caste amalgam). In Bihar, this is known as the 'Luv-Kush combination', a reference to the two sons of Lord Ram. Mr. Kushwaha's return to the JD(U) was said to symbolise the eventual failure of the RLSP's project of weaning away Kushwahas from Nitish Kumar (he is a Kurmi).

Whether Mr. Kushwaha's restlessness represents a healthy bout of intra-party dissent or presages a threat to the JD(U)'s social coalition or even party unity is still unclear. One might recall that JD(U) leaders had interpreted the Shiv Sena split in Maharashtra as a validation of its decision to part ways with the BJP, hailing Nitish Kumar's sagacity in foiling the 'Eknath Shinde' plan in Bihar.

The Kurmi vote

It might be argued that the greater threat to the MGB's social coalition comes from a split in the Kurmi vote rather than the aloofness of the Yadavs. In 2014, where the JD(U) and the RJD fought separately, the Modi wave split the JD(U)'s core base of the Kurmi-Kushwahas, reducing Nitish Kumar's party to fewer seats than Mr. Kushwaha's RLSP, even as the RJD largely held on to Yadavs.

The JD(U) appears alive to the threat, rebranding Nitish Kumar more openly as a leader of the Kurmis, judging by statements hinting at plans to field Mr. Kumar in 2024 from Kurmi-dominated Mirzapur or Phulpur in eastern Uttar Pradesh. This marks a significant departure from the JD(U)'s earlier rhetoric of 'Bihari pride' and caste-agnostic development.

We might see more such ideological manoeuvres from all the parties as they try to survive in the new and uncertain political environment. The big message of Kurhani is that the grand social coalition of the MGB might be formidable but has enough contradictions within to make it beatable.

Reflections on the fading principle of non-intervention

Vivek Katju

is a retired diplomat

The President of India, Draupadi Murmu, and the Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, have weighed in on the surpassing significance of the separation of powers in the Indian Constitution. However, both did so in different ways, in substance and style.

Wise counsel

In her valedictory address on November 26 to the Constitution Day celebrations organised by the Supreme Court of India, Ms.Murmu said, "The Constitution outlines a map for good governance. The most crucial feature in this is the doctrine of separation of functions and powers of the three Organs of the State.... It has been the hallmark of our Republic that the three organs have respected the boundaries set in place by the Constitution... It is understandable that in the zeal to serve the best interests of the citizens, one or the other may be tempted to overstep. Yet, we can say with satisfaction and pride that the three have always attempted to keep the boundaries in mind while doing their best to function in the service of the people."

These measured words do not point a finger at any particular organ of state. Ms. Murmu cautions them all against excessive "zeal" which may lead to transgressing the "boundaries" set for them by the Constitution. Indeed, it can be said without fear of contradiction that seldom has a leader sounded a caution so delicately and yet so effectively. Her wise counsel should be a guide to the political class and the judges.

Mr. Dhankhar, in his capacity as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, addressed the House ("258th session of the Rajya Sabha") for the first time on December 7. Devoting a portion of his address to the doctrine of separation of powers in the Constitution, he said, "Democracy blossoms ... when its three facets... scrupulously adhere to their respective domains. The sublimity of the Doctrine of Separation of Powers, is realised when Legislature, Judiciary and Executive optimally function in tandem and togetherness, meticulously ensuring scrupulous adherence to respective jurisdictional domain. Any incursion by one, howsoever subtle, in the domain of [the] other has the potential to upset the governance apple cart."

> In the tense interplay between the executive and the judiciary on the appointment of judges, it is worthwhile recalling what ought to hold the key

And a radical departure

As the Vice-President proceeded further, he departed radically from the President's views. He said, "We are indeed faced with this grim reality of frequent incursions.". President Murmu had only pointed to "temptations". Far from making the charge of "frequent incursions", she had categorically said that it was the "hallmark" of the Indian Republic that the three organs had respected their constitutionally prescribed boundaries.

In the context of the "grim reality of frequent incursions", Mr. Dhankhar basically focused on the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the 99th Constitutional Amendment setting up the National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC). He said, "This historic parliamentary mandate was undone by the Supreme Court on October 16, 2015 by a majority of 4:1 finding the same as not being in consonance with the judicially evolved doctrine of 'Basic Structure' of the Constitution." Stating this to be an unparalleled development in "democratic history", he added, "We need to bear in mind that in democratic governance, 'Basic' of any 'Basic Structure' is the prevalence of the primacy of the mandate of the people reflected in the Parliament. Parliament is the exclusive and ultimate determinative of the architecture of the Constitution". He regretted that Parliament had not focussed on this matter for the past seven years. It is difficult to recall another instance of any Vice-President having expressed his views on a judicial decision and in such a manner. But then these are new times and new precedents are being set.

The office of the Republic's President is above politics. The Vice-President has to be fundamentally above politics too; he/she can only enter that arena when he/she has to exercise a 'casting vote' in case of an 'equality of votes' in a matter under the consideration of the Rajya Sabha. In the past, Vice-President's have, in their addresses outside the House, given voice to their views on public policies. Mr. Dhankhar's choice of words on the Supreme Court's decision on the NJAC also tends to give an impression that he not merely made a comment on a specific case but raised questions of the long-settled matter of the ambit of Parliament's powers to amend the Constitution.

The Minister of Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju, has clarified in Parliament that the Government does not propose to re-introduce the NJAC with amendments. He was critical of the present collegium system for appointment of judges earlier. The Supreme Court is seized of the matter relating to delays by the Government in acting on the recommendation of the collegium in some cases. As the matter is *sub judice*, it would be improper to comment on the issues. It would not be improper though to recall what Mohammad Hidayatullah, a former Chief Justice of India – he is also one of Vice-President Dhankhar's predecessor's – has recorded in his autobiography, *My Own Boswell*. He wrote that the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Kailas Nath Katju, told Justice Hidayatullah when he was Chief Justice of the State that he would never intervene with judges' appointments but caution him if he heard something adverse about any of his recommendations. This goes back to 1957, decades before the collegium system, but the principle followed by Dr. Katju holds the key even today to the interplay between the executive and the judiciary on the appointment of judges.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Warning signals

China's India policy is based on two assumptions: that India is risk-averse and would not respond to coercion by escalating the matter militarily. And it would not form alliances against China. India too has certain assumptions about China: that China will not risk a war to change the status quo. India believes as well that all disagreements can be solved through dialogue. Galwan has changed opinion about China to some extent but India must understand that China will not hesitate to go to war if it is sure of winning. Until then it will keep trying to subdue the enemy without fighting. India continues to be a prisoner of its image — of being a responsible country that should never start a war even if it is suffering and being bullied.

Sandeep Kumar Meena,
New Delhi

Aggrandisement is inherent in Chinese policy. The present standoff near the Line of Actual Control near the Arunachal Pradesh border is not something new. Nobody expects the border dispute with China to be resolved by political diplomacy. India needs to take steps to avoid aggravating a worsening situation.

Dharmarajan A.K.,
Thalassery, Kerala

The fact is that even when the world was trying to come to grips with the COVID-19 pandemic, China never deviated from its hegemonic approach to the world. Even when it seems to be at the receiving end from its own people, it does not seem to stop. If it was Galwan then it is Tawang now. There could be reasons, which include a show of strength by Xi Jinping or diverting public perception of its handling of its COVID-19 crisis.

Madhusree Guha,
Kolkata

Need for justice

Those who had been following the Bhima Koregaon case have always had a hunch that cases filed against most of the accused may not rest on sound findings. The country has been anguished over the welfare of Stan Swamy, while in jail, where those who mattered looked the other way. Now, a report from the U.S. that there could have been something sinister in the whole issue should cause the judiciary to review the entire case.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

Economic goal

If the goal of achieving a trillion dollar economy in Tamil Nadu is to fructify, as analysed in the Editorial page article (December 15), then merely elevating family favourites and building stadia to encourage sports activities are of little relevance. Instead, what we would need is to allocate money on a long-term basis to ensure basic education for all students, focussing on the STEM curriculum. In addition, the State also needs to improve fundamental infrastructure, the growing economy will demand such capital outlays. The current plan to increase funding for *kabbadi*, *silambam*, etc. would be a waste of public resources.

G. Parameswaran,
Coimbatore

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Is the RTI Act fulfilling its purpose?

Anjali Bhardwaj

is the Co-Convenor of the National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information

Saurav Das

is a transparency activist

PARLEY

The Right to Information (RTI) Act was passed by Parliament in 2005, aiming to give people access to the records of the Central and State governments. It was a vital reform to help activists and individuals ensure transparency and accountability in governance. In a discussion moderated by **Sonikka Loganathan**, Anjali Bhardwaj and Saurav Das take stock of what's working and the issues that appear to be weakening the law. Edited excerpts:

Is the RTI Act fulfilling its purpose?

Anjali Bhardwaj: It has been one of the most empowering legislations for people because this is the one law that puts an obligation on the government to respond to them in a time-bound manner, to get them information to hold the government accountable. The law has, in many ways, tilted the balance of power in favour of those governed. That is, I think, something that people in the country at large have understood. So when there is denial of their rights and entitlements such as their rations, pensions, medicines in hospitals or education in schools, they reach out to government departments to file an RTI application, and very often they do get information.

We have seen that a majority of the RTI applications are filed by people who are asking about their basic rights and entitlements. So it has fulfilled its purpose to that extent. The other thing is that to hold high offices to account, people have used the RTI law to know what is happening with taxpayers' money. This has enabled them to expose big-ticket scams such as the Adarsh, Commonwealth Games and Vyapam scams. They've also been able to expose human rights violations, and then force accountability in those cases as well.

Saurav Das: To a certain extent, yes. The Act is still effective despite the widespread attempts to dilute its efficacy. This is because the law was born out of a sustained people's movement. Officers still think twice before replying to an RTI query, which reflects the seriousness with which it is taken. The major impediment is the lack of awareness of this law and lack of widespread adoption. By adoption, I mean people really thinking of the law as their own creation. The day these two things are achieved, the RTI Act's real mandate will be realised.

Do you have to be an RTI expert to know how to properly file questions?

People at an RTI office in Bengaluru. THE HINDU

AB: What is remarkable about the RTI Act is that it came as a result of a very strong grassroots movement, where people from all walks of life came together to say that there was a need for a legislation to ensure that they were empowered to seek information from the government. The law basically ensures that there is no set format in which an RTI application has to be filed. It's a fairly straightforward, simple process. The quality of information one receives depends on how the questions are drafted and framed. Our research has shown that a very large percentage of RTI applications are filed by the poorest and the most marginalised, usually asking for information that relates to their very basic rights and entitlements.

So somebody asking for their ration card, whether the ration card has been made or not, it's a fairly simple question. And they're able to ask that question without too much training. But when one asks for complex information, which deals with, let's say, corruption, large scams or cases of violations of the law or human rights, that is when one needs to really frame the questions in a very detailed manner – where expertise helps.

SD: The beauty of this Act is its simplicity. But, for example, in High Courts, if you are asking for information, they have particular forms through which you can seek information. If you file an application in Odisha, they have a particular format for filing. These sorts of rules create hindrances for people.

AB: There are some States where you can only file an RTI application within 150 words. Condensing the question, especially for those who might not have the benefit of a formal education, becomes a challenge.

> Successive governments have tried to whittle down this law, beginning with the United Progressive Alliance itself, the creator of this legislation
> SAURAV DAS

Is the RTI ensuring transparency between the citizen and the government as it was intended to do?

SD: Very cleverly, the public information officers these days use words like this division does not have the information. So now they are putting, in a way, the liability on the applicant to find out which officer and which office will hold that information. This is not in consonance with the RTI Act because the liability is on the officer to find out who is holding the information and transfer the RTI application.

AB: They're supposed to specifically refer to which section they're using to deny information. Without even referring to a section, we are seeing a large number of denials where people are just told that this information cannot be provided to you, which is an illegal denial.

Was this reluctance to share information always a problem?

AB: When the law came in 2005, it revolutionised the information space. It meant that anyone could ask any public authority for information, and there has been resistance from the very beginning. The first attempt to amend the law came within 10 months of it being introduced. We're seeing that there are problems at various levels today. First, within the government, asking for information is not encouraged. Second, even maintaining datasets and information, putting information in the public domain has become a big problem. So during COVID-19, for example, when the government was asked how many people lost their lives due to lack of oxygen, about the number of migrant workers, on all of that the government said, we don't have any data. The 2021 census hasn't happened, and the government is now saying it's been indefinitely postponed. Now, that is a source of data. So if the government doesn't collect data, or doesn't put it out, then people's right to information becomes really restricted. There is a large-scale denial of information.

There have been several attempts by governments to amend the law. And in every case, whether it was the proposed amendment to say that file notings will not be part of the right to information or it was to say that political parties will be left out of the ambit of the RTI Act, people protested and governments had to step back.

Of course, in 2019, they did go ahead and make the amendments (giving the government the power to set service conditions for information commissioners). But despite threats, attacks and murders of RTI users, people are still using the law extensively, which testifies to the fact that it's something that they find very powerful.

If the law has been whittled down, could you give us examples of the ways in which this has happened?

SD: Successive governments have tried to whittle down this law, beginning with the United Progressive Alliance itself, the creator of this law. State governments have tried and are still trying to do it. But the two biggest and successful attempts have been made or are being made by the National Democratic Alliance government. Once in 2019, and the second now, by way of the Data Protection Bill which will most likely pass.

AB: We have huge vacancies in information commissions, which means that appeals and complaints keep pending.

Other laws can impact the RTI Act such as the updated Data Protection Bill. Can you explain what kind of issues this is causing.

AB: The Data Protection Bill will set up a system of amending the RTI law in a manner that all personal information will be exempted. In a community where people are not being given their entitlements or rights under the public distribution system, for example, there is granular information that is put up saying this is the name of the person, [these are] the rations that they are being given, their address, so as to enable a social audit in order to put pressure on the government and hold them accountable.

We feel now that the entire proactive disclosure scheme, which was provided for under the RTI Act, is going to be completely undermined.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
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NOTEBOOK

In exile and always dreaming of home

There is nothing as haunted and powerless as a leader who has lost their land and their people

Suhasini Haidar

Like the cold outside, melancholy hangs thick in the air at a restaurant in Dushanbe, where leaders, politicians, thinkers, writers and journalists, all part of a conference on Afghanistan's anti-Taliban forces, meet. Many of those in the room are in exile – from the guests to the waiters and the poets and singers. Afghanistan's most famous folk singer, Amir Jan Sabori, is among those who have been twice exiled. He left his homeland first in 1996 when the Taliban claimed Kabul and killed artists and musicians they saw as anti-Islam. Mr. Sabori's songs of love, longing and parting are as much about his feelings for his homeland as anything else, and the entire gathering claps and sings along with him.

The conference itself begins with the song "*Watan Ishq Tu Iftekharam* (Homeland, I am proud of your love)". Fawzia Koofi, a former member of parliament, can't hold back her tears as young Afghan children, all exiles too, sing its verses. "Exile is like a slow-motion death," she tells me. She says she relives again and again the day she felt she had to leave her country, especially for the safety of her daughters, after living for weeks under house arrest in Kabul last year. Ms. Koofi was shot twice – in 2010 and 2020 – but she says she doesn't fear physical risk to her life. She wants to return, if she can do so without legitimising the Taliban.

As a journalist, one meets many leaders, but there is nothing as haunted and powerless as a leader who has lost their land and their people. While millions choose to migrate to other countries in search of better lives, there is always a community of politicians and leaders whose only desire while living abroad is to return home, regardless of the risks. This is what explains former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's need to return to Pakistan in 2007 – in interviews she gave me during a visit to Delhi, and over the telephone from London and Dubai, she spoke incessantly only of the day she would go home. On the day she did, a massive bombing on her convoy from the airport killed more than 140 people. She survived and remained in Pakistan, but was killed two months later.

In Saudi Arabia, during his first exile when he was deposed by General Pervez Musharraf, Nawaz Sharif referred to his beautiful palace as a "golden cage" and spent his time counting the days to his return. When I asked Maldives' former President Mohamed Nasheed how being in exile in the U.K. was different, he said, "I don't put any pictures up while I'm here, and my bags are always ready for my return. You can live anywhere, but you have only one home." He was badly injured in a bomb blast in Male 2021, but returned once more.

Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been jailed by the military junta that overthrew her government in 2021, gave up not only her home in the U.K. in 1988, but her children too. She could not go back to see her husband who was dying of cancer because she feared that the junta would not let her back into her homeland. In Yangon in 2012, when she was standing for her first election after being released from nearly 15 years of house arrest, I asked her if the sacrifices had been worth it. She said she missed her children, but could not give up the love of her people.

Many of these leaders have been accused of betraying their people through actions taken while in power in their country. But what is indisputable is their commitment to ending their exiles abroad and returning home, regardless of the risks involved. When I think of what drives them, I am reminded of author Salman Rushdie's words in *The Satanic Verses*, and in his recounting of the trauma he felt as an exile in *Joseph Anton: A Memoir*: "Exile is an endless paradox: looking forward by always looking back. The exile is a ball hurled high into the air. He hangs there, frozen in time, translated into a photograph; denied motion, suspended impossibly above his native earth, he awaits the inevitable moment at which the photograph must begin to move, and the earth reclaim its own."

suhasini.h@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Back to the jungle

After 17 days of operation, the Pandalur makhna elephant (PM2) was darted and captured in Puliyampara reserve forest in Gudalur range. A forest veterinarian darted the animal with a tranquiliser before a team of four kumki elephants were brought in to restrain the animal with ropes. M. SATHYAMOORTHY

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 16, 1972

Nuclear test date: 'No quick decision'

New Delhi, Dec. 15: There cannot be a "quick decision" about an experimental nuclear explosion for peaceful purposes, the Lok Sabha was told to-day. Mr. K.C. Pant, Minister of State who assists the Prime Minister in Parliamentary work relating to the Department of Atomic Energy, affirmed that the Atomic Energy Commission was in touch with developments in the rest of the world in the technology of peaceful uses of nuclear energy through underground explosion. Replying to a half-hour discussion raised by Mr. Samar Guha (Soc.), Mr. Pant said Indian scientists had been in touch with the developments both in the theoretical and in the experimental aspects and "both these aspects have been under review." Mr. Pant said the economic value of such explosions would have to be studied as also the possible effect on the environment. And, it was only after a satisfactory answer to problems like radio-active fall-out that one could go ahead with an actual underground explosion, he added. Mr. Pant said it was very difficult to set a special date when an explosion would take place.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 16, 1922

British troops

London, Dec. 14: Picturesque ceremonies took place in Dublin today in connection with the evacuation of the remaining British troops. Free State troops took over the guards of the Vice-regal Lodge and occupied the Island Bridge and the Richmand Barracks. 2,000 British soldiers marched out of the latter with hands playing and colours flying amidst cheering crowds and shouts of "Goodbye, you'll be back again soon." Evacuation continues during the next few days. Four transports are leaving daily.

From Page One

China builds ropeway, roads near tri-junction

Citing Intelligence inputs, sources said there has been hectic activity and construction along the eastern sector, especially in the last few months.

The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is divided into the western (Ladakh), middle (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), and eastern (Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim) sectors. India has also been significantly upgrading its infrastructure along the LAC in the last few years, with further ramping-up post the 2020 stand-off in Galwan.

No activity in Doklam: Bhutan

However, responding to reports of fresh PLA activity at Doklam, Bhutanese officials said there was no such activity "in Doklam", drawing a distinction between the actual tri-junction that was the flashpoint for the India-China stand-off in 2017, and the wider area. "The information about Chinese activities in Doklam is not correct," said Bhutan's Ambassador to India, General Vetsop Namgyal (Retd.), who added that he had checked with the Royal Bhutan Army, and they had confirmed that "there are no Chinese activities in Doklam".

In 2021, China and Bhutan reached an agreement on a three-step roadmap to resolve their boundary issues, including the Doklam area, after 24 rounds of negotiations that began in 1984.

Differing perception

The Army's December 12 statement giving details of the scuffle between Indian and Chinese troops on December 9 noted that, in certain areas along the LAC in the Tawang sector, there are areas of differing perception, where both sides patrol the area up to their claim lines. This "has been the trend since 2006," it said.

India and China have mutually agreed disputed areas and areas of differing perception along the 3,488 km-long LAC. For instance in eastern Ladakh, there are two mutually agreed disputed areas, Trig Heights and Demchok, while there are 10 areas of differing perception. Similarly, Yangtse is one of the eight major friction points in the eastern sector.

'States can enact laws on uniform civil code'

Mr. Rijiju added, "Personal laws such as intestacy and succession, wills, joint family and partition, marriage and divorce, relate to Entry 5 of List-III-Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, and hence, the States are also empowered to legislate upon them."

Mr. Rijiju's comments assume significance given the backdrop of several Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled States announcing their intention to implement the UCC.

While Uttarakhand was the first to set up a panel to explore the possibility of a common civil code, the Gujarat government also announced its intention of doing so just ahead of its Assembly election. The party had made the implementation of the UCC a part of its Himachal Pradesh manifesto as well, although it lost the Assembly election. Earlier this month, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said a committee would be constituted to implement the UCC.

On December 9, BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena moved a Private Member's Bill on the UCC amid strong Opposition protests. The Bill was eventually introduced, with 63 members voting in favour of the motion while 23 members opposed it.

Defending Mr. Meena, Leader of the Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal had said, "It is the legitimate right of a member to raise an issue which is under the directive principles of the Constitution. Let this subject be debated."

Centre spent ₹2,355 crore on ads in the last five years

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The total expenditure incurred on advertisements through newspapers and TV channels by the Central government from 2017-18 till December 6, 2022, stands at ₹2,355.11 crore.

In response to a query from Rajya Sabha Member A.A. Rahim, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Thursday said the expenditure on account of advertisements to newspapers was ₹1,829.18 crore and ₹525.93 crore for TV channels.

The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) releases advertisements for the government departments.

Through another written reply to a query of Member Naranbhai J. Rathwa, the Ministry said the total expenditure incurred on advertisements by CBC in 2020-21 on newspapers was ₹197.49 crore and ₹69.91 crore for TV channels. In 2021-22 the amount was ₹179.04 crore for newspapers and ₹29.30 crore for TV channels.

Need a new appointment system to fill vacancies in higher judiciary: Rijiju

The Law Minister said the government had returned 20 names to the Collegium, but it had appointed 165 judges across various High Courts, making it the highest for a calendar year

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> Questions will keep arising on vacancy of judges and appointments till we create a new system for appointments
>
> **KIREN RIJIJU**
> Law Minister

The issue of vacancies and appointments in the higher judiciary will continue to arise until a new system is created, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

The Law Minister's comments, made while giving answers to supplementaries during the Question Hour, comes in the midst of an ongoing war of words between the government and the Supreme Court over the delay in appointments to the higher judiciary.

Asked if the government would revive the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, Mr. Rijiju said that several prominent jurists, retired judges, advocates, and leaders of political parties have opined that the striking down of the Act by the Supreme Court was not correct. The issue of the NJAC Act, which sought to replace the current Collegium system, has also been raised by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar twice over the past 15 days.

30% vacancy

As on December 9, 777 judges are working in the High Courts against the sanctioned strength of 1,108, leaving a vacancy of 331 or 30%. To fill these vacancies, 147 proposals are at various stages of discussion between the Supreme Court Collegium and the Union government, while the names for another 184 vacancies are yet to be received by the Collegiums of various High Courts.

In a written response, the Minister said that while the government had returned 20 names back to the Collegium, it has appointed 165 judges across various High Courts, making it the highest for a calendar year.

Mr. Rijiju said the total number of cases pending in various courts is about to touch five crore, adding that the impact of such a huge pendency of court cases on the public is obvious. "Currently, the government has limited powers to fill the vacancies [in courts]," he said, adding that the Centre cannot look for names other than those recommended by the Collegium.

The Law Minister said that somehow he felt that "we are not working as per the spirit of the House and feelings of the people of the country". "We are giving our full support to reduce pendency of cases. But questions will keep arising on vacancy of judges and appointments till we create a new system for appointments," he added.

Collegium system comes in for criticism from RSS arm

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid differences between the Central government and Supreme Court on the Collegium system of appointing judges, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) mouthpiece *Panchjanya* has carried a seven-page cover story criticising the way appointments and transfers of judges are being done in India.

The cover story titled "*Me Lord Ka, Me lord Dwara, Me Lord ke Liye* (Of my Lord, By my Lord, For My Lord)" in the magazine's upcoming edition, quoted an article in an English daily that said "50% of judges in High Courts and 33% in the Supreme Court are either direct or distant relatives of officiating judges".

The article also spoke about how a SC judge supported the Emergency call by late PM Indira Gandhi and later criticised her when the Janata Party came to power. It said the "judiciary was under the influence of 'communists' and Congress".

Bihar illicit liquor toll rises to 26; Nitish says those who consume alcohol will die

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

As the official death toll in the hooch tragedy in dry Bihar went up to 26 on Thursday, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said, "Those who consume liquor will die. There is nothing new in it." According to villagers in Saran district, over 40 people have died so far in the tragedy.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded Mr. Kumar's resignation, with their legislators creating a ruckus in the Bihar legislature. The State's prohibition policy has also come under fire, with accusations that it is the underlying cause for the deaths.

Saran District Magistrate Rajesh Meena said a recommendation has been made to remove Marhaura Deputy Superintendent of Police Indrajit Baitha for "dereliction in duty". "In the last 48 hours, as many as 126 people have been arrested in connection with the incident," said a senior official in Patna.

Stir erupts: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar arrives in Assembly amid protest by Opposition legislators over the hooch tragedy. PTI

Political blame game

Speaking to the media about the tragedy, the Chief Minister said that those who consumed liquor would die. "*Jo sharab piyega, woh marege hi... Isme koi nayee baat nahi hai. Udhaharan samne hai, piyoge to maroge* (Those who consume liquor, will die... There is nothing new in it. The example is before us, if you drink, you will die)," said Mr. Kumar.

BJP leader Samrat Choudhury, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the State Council, termed the deaths as a "massacre", adding that "the victims' family members must lodge an FIR against the CM for the deaths".

Hooch tragedy echoes in Parliament; BJP MPs seek action against Nitish govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bihar hooch tragedy echoed in Parliament on Thursday, disrupting the Rajya Sabha proceedings where Treasury benches raised slogans against the Bihar government, while in the Lok Sabha, a BJP MP termed the deaths "mass murder".

In the Lok Sabha, the hooch deaths dominated the Zero Hour. BJP MP from Saran [where the hooch tragedy took place] Rajiv Pratap Rudy demanded that the Home Ministry send a team and seek a report from the Bihar government. He claimed that the death toll in the tragedy had gone up to 52.

Sushil Kumar Singh, BJP MP from Aurangabad, termed the deaths "mass murder".

Seeking immediate action, Sanjay Jaiswal, BJP MP from Pashchim Champaran, said, "It's Bihar government-sponsored murder. Spurious liquor is supplied to every household by the police despite prohibition in place."

Mr. Jaiswal said immediate action should be taken against the Bihar government and the State police force, who he alleged had made "hundreds of crores" in spurious liquor sales.

Some Opposition members pointed out that there have been deaths in hooch tragedy in Uttar Pradesh also in the past, asking the BJP MPs why these incidents were not being highlighted in the House.

In the Rajya Sabha, BJP MP Biplab Kumar Dev, who was supposed to speak on the 'Need to reopen border-haat on Tripura-Bangladesh border' as part of the Zero Hour, instead started delivering a speech on the hooch tragedy.

The Opposition sharply protested against Mr. Dev for switching the topic, forcing the first adjournment a little after 11 a.m.

The Treasury benches raised slogans against the Bihar government calling it a government of "murderers".

SC cites Bihar example to caution Punjab

NEW DELHI

The Bihar hooch tragedy came up in the Supreme Court on Thursday as a wake-up call for the Punjab government on how the poor will suffer if the rampant brewing and sale of illicit liquor are not stopped in time. A Bench led by Justice M.R. Shah has been hearing a petition on the unbridled flow of illicit liquor in Punjab.

Govt. releases data on SC/ST employees at higher posts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The representation of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) officers at the rank of joint secretary and secretary in Government of India stands at 4% and 4.9% respectively, the department of personnel and training (DoPT) informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Responding to a question by Ram Nath Thakur of the Janata Dal (U), Minister of State Jitendra Singh said in a written reply, "Out of a total of 322 officers currently holding the posts of Joint Secretaries and Secretaries under Central Staffing Scheme in different Ministries/Departments, 16, 13, 39 and 254 belong to SC, ST, Other Backward Classes (OBC) and General category, respectively."

RS discusses effects of global warming and steps to tackle it

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday took up a short duration discussion on the "Serious Effects of Global Warming and the Need for Remedial Steps to Tackle it." The motion was moved by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) Tiruchi Siva, Congress's Pramod Tiwari and Communist Party of India's (CPI) Santhosh Kumar P.

Opening the discussion, Mr. Siva said that India would be among the seven countries worst-affected by climate change and had to prepare a remedial response for it. The target of the Union government is zero carbon emission status by 2070, but it is the next 20 years that are important and the alarm bells are ringing, he said.

The DMK MP said that Tamil Nadu had announced some policies and would achieve zero carbon emission status by 2027.

Amee Yajnik, Congress MP from Gujarat, called for proper monitoring of industrial pollutants and the modernisation of pollution monitoring systems.

The Trinamool Congress's Jawhar Sircar said the rising sea levels would impact coastal States the most. Citing the annual cyclones, he said that the only reason Bengal was saved from the invasion of the sea was the mangrove plantations.

"We have pleaded (to the Centre) again and again throughout this year that we need to replant mangrove saplings, there was no reply," Mr. Sircar said.

Broadcasting by Centre and States has to come under Prasar Bharati: I&B Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Entities distributing the broadcasting content have been asked to 'extract themselves' from it

Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday said all the existing broadcasting of Central government Ministries, State/UT governments and related entities would have to be brought under the Prasar Bharati route as per the new guidelines.

In a written reply to a query from Rajya Sabha Member Anbumani Ramadoss pertaining to Kalvi TV, an educational channel run by Tamil Nadu government, the Minister said under the advisory dated October 21, 2022, the entry of Central/State/UT government into the business of broadcast for educational purposes should be done through the Prasar Bharati route through suitable agreements between Prasar Bharati and the government concerned.

The advisory had been issued after examination of the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the extant matter and stakeholder consultations on the issue. Before finalising, the TRAI's views were sought on giving dispensation to State and Central governments for running channels for non-commercial educational purposes.

The TRAI had responded that the requirements of Central/State governments regarding dissemination of educational content on a non-commercial basis should be met through the Prasar Bharati route, said the Minister. Such entities distributing the broadcasting content have been asked to "extract themselves" from it by December 31, 2023.

Free channels

Responding to another question from Member Kanimozhi N.V.N. Somu, the Minister said Prasar Bharati was telecasting 51 co-branded educational TV channels which were available to the viewers of "DD FreeDish", a free-to-air DTH service. These channels can be viewed across the country free of cost with the help of a small-sized dish and set-top box.

When will India warn China for its actions, asks Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress party on Thursday attacked the Centre over the Arunachal Pradesh border skirmish asking when India would show "*lal ankh*" (red eyes) to China, a Hindi idiom referring to a warning glare.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, the Congress Leader in the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said that China was trying to destroy India. He said that the recent malware attack on servers of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi had been carried out from China, and sought a white paper from the Central government on this issue.

APPEAL

BABY ROHINI PANJA, 4 years admitted in Manipal Hospitals, Ambalipura. Suffering from Congenital Heart Disease - TOF, Confluent Branch PAS, has to undergo ICR to prevent irreversible damage. Costing **Rs. 4.5 Lakhs** for surgery immediately.

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INBRIEF

India test-fires Agni-V ballistic missile with 5,000 km range

India on Thursday successfully test-fired nuclear-capable ballistic missile Agni-V that can strike targets at ranges up to 5,000 km, marking a significant boost to the country's strategic deterrence, people familiar with the development said. The test-firing of the missile from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast comes amid India's lingering border row with China. Agni-V can bring almost the entire Asia including the northernmost part of China and regions in Europe under its striking range. PTI

One lakh farmers to protest against Central govt. policies

Over one lakh farmers from 600 district across the country will gather at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on December 18 to protest against the Centre's policies. The protest, organised under the aegis of Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, an RSS affiliate, will draw the government's attention on profitable price, GST, GM crops and many other burning issues faced by Indian farmers, said Mohini Mohan Mishra, all-India general secretary of BKS. The BKS alleged that the schemes and planning of the Centre are anti-farmer.

Discussion to include Hattee community to ST list begins

Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda on Thursday moved a motion in Lok Sabha to begin the discussion on the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Third Amendment) Bill, 2022, to include the Hattee community of Sirmaur district's Trans-Giri region in the ST list of Himachal Pradesh. Kicking off the discussion on the Bill, Congress MP Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka said that he supported the move to include them in the ST list but questioned the consequences of the decision.

43 policemen convicted for killing 10 Sikhs in 1991

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday convicted 43 policemen for culpable homicide in a case relating to killing of 10 Sikhs in Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh in 1991. They were sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment with fine of ₹10,000. However, the Bench of Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice Saroj Yadav set aside the murder conviction given by a lower court. It said there was "no ill-will between the accused and those killed". It said that evidence placed on record said police had a report of some terrorists travelling and were acting on it.

SC to hear plea against poll bond scheme next month

The case, which has been pending since 2015, has a new petition challenging a govt. notification allowing the sale of electoral bonds for an additional 15 days in Assembly election years

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to examine in January a plea to refer to a Constitution Bench petitions accusing the electoral bonds scheme of illegally facilitating anonymous donations to political parties days before polls are due.

A Bench led by Justice B. R. Gavai listed the case for the last week of January 2023.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, requested the court for an urgent hearing, saying the question of reference to a Constitution Bench could be heard and decided quickly at an early date.

Justice Gavai said the case had been pending since 2015. Mr. Bhushan said the petitioners had made several requests for an early hearing.

The Bench, however, pointed out that there were no elections due in the interregnum before the last week of January even as the petitioners urged it to list the case for the first week of the new year.

Mr. Bhushan submitted there was now an election "every two or three months".

The case has a new petition which has challenged a recent government notification allowing the sale of electoral bonds for an additional 15 days in Assembly election years.

This petition has sought the quashing of the November 7 notification issued by the Finance Ministry amending the electoral bonds scheme. "An additional period of 15 days shall be specified by the Centre in the year of general elections to the Legislative Assembly of States and Union territories with the legislature," the gazette notification had said.

Earlier, a 30-day extra period for sale was allowed only during Lok Sabha election year.

In October, during a hearing in the case, the Court had asked the government whether the electoral bonds' system revealed the source of money pumped in to fund political parties even as the Centre had repeatedly maintained that the scheme was "absolutely transparent".

Petrol price high in 6 non-BJP ruled States as VAT wasn't cut: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday that petrol prices remained high in six non-BJP ruled States of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Jharkhand as the State governments had not reduced value-added tax (VAT).

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on high petrol prices, he asked the MPs from these Opposition-ruled States to request their State governments to reduce VAT so that prices could be reduced there.

Hardeep Singh Puri

"I suggest MPs from the Opposition to impress upon their State governments to reduce the VAT so that they can also join the celebrations," he said.

The Minister said other States followed cue and reduced VAT after the Centre reduced excise duty on petroleum products.

The Minister's remarks saw vociferous protests from the Opposition and members from the Congress, the DMK, the Trinamool Congress and the NCP staged a walkout.

Asserting that currently petrol prices in India were one of the lowest, Mr. Puri said oil marketing companies (OMCs) together suffered losses of ₹27,276 crore due to high prices of crude in international markets.

India imported more than 85% of its crude oil requirements. Therefore, the prices of petrol and diesel in the country were linked to their prices in the international market.

Mr. Puri said retail prices of petrol and diesel depended on various factors such as crude oil purchase price and exchange rates.

JD(U)-RJD merger talk is Nitish's deal with Lalu, says BJP

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The BJP hopes to profit from the merger as several JD(U) leaders may jump ship

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's statement that his deputy and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav will be the leader of the *Mahagathbandhan* for the 2025 Assembly polls has not been a huge surprise for the BJP, the alliance's political rival.

The BJP alleges that this was "part of the deal" struck between Mr. Kumar and RJD chief Lalu Prasad before the alliance was finalised.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar and Rajya Sabha member Sushil Modi said the statement was just verbalising the deal that was struck. "This was part of the deal, where the leadership of the alliance was to be ceded to Mr. Tejashwi Yadav before the next Assembly polls, with Mr. Kumar doing national politics," he said. Mr. Modi said he anticipated a merger of the Janata Dal (United) with the RJD soon, as, with a government with a combined tally of both parties at 125 out of 243 seats, the formation would be unassailable in terms of the anti-defection law.

Another BJP leader, who did not wish to be named, said his party was only "watching" the developments, as their own strategy was very clear.

"If you look at the recent bypolls in Bihar, we have acquitted ourselves well, despite the seven-party alliance ranged against us. In fact if you look at the results of the Kurhani bypoll, which we won, it becomes clearer. Many JD(U) supporters, especially the Extremely Backward Classes, women, and even some parts of the Kurmi community voted for the BJP and are increasingly uncomfortable with the notion that the merger of the JD(U) with the RJD, or even the absence of Nitish from the pole position in State politics, will result in the disappearance of the distinct constituency carved by Mr. Kumar," said the senior leader. In the Kurhani bypoll, the BJP claims, it got support from the EBCs and up to 40% support from even Kurmi (the community to which Mr. Kumar belongs) voters.

The possibility of the merger of the JD(U) with the RJD is also something the BJP hopes to profit by, anticipating that on the ground, there were several JD(U) leaders willing to jump to the other side.

The discomfort with the thoughts of the JD(U) merging with the RJD has been very clearly articulated by former Union Minister and JD(U) parliamentary board chairperson, Upendra Kushwaha. "There are no talks of a merger. People must think how can it take place. The JD(U)'s merger would be suicidal. Does someone take a suicidal step on their own?" asked Mr. Kushwaha.

Godhra train burning: convict granted bail

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday granted bail to a convict serving life imprisonment in the 2002 Godhra train coach burning case, noting that he has been in jail for the last 17 years.

A Bench of Chief Justice D. Y. Chandrachud and Justice P. S. Narasimha took note of the submission of a lawyer, appearing for one of the convicts, Faruk, that he be granted bail considering the period. Appeals of several convicts are pending adjudication in the Supreme Court.

Government of Odisha
Sports & Youth Services Department
Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar-751012
E-Mail ID: deptsportsodisha@gmail.com

SYS-SEB-MISCS-0008-2022/ 24342 Date:14/12/2022

Request for Proposal

Sports & Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha invites bids from reputed Catering agencies to the RfP on **"Engagement of Catering Agency at Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, Rourkela for FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023**. The details of the document are available at the below mentioned website

Website : https://department.sportsodisha.gov.in/tender

Interested firms / parties / agencies are advised to study the RfP document carefully before submitting their bid.

Important Dates and Information :

Last date and time of submission of proposal - 28.12.2022 up to 03:00 PM
Opening of the Technical Bid - 28.12.2022 at 5:30 PM
Technical presentation - 29.12.2022

-Sd-
Commissioner-cum-Secretary

TT-26 OIPR-29001/11/0034/2223

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MUMBAI REGION

Hiring of Consultancy services to review the vessels requirement considering number of platforms / rigs (duty points) and to provide solutions / software for vessel deployment management for optimum utilization in Western offshore operations

Marine Logistics - Offshore Logistics Group, ONGC, Mumbai intends to hire consultancy services to review the vessels requirement considering number of platforms / rigs (duty points) and to provide solutions / software for vessel deployment management for optimum utilization in Western offshore operations. In this regard, an Expression of Interest (EOI) / interactive session with prospective vendors has been scheduled on **12.01.2023 from 1100 Hrs.** at 11 High, ONGC . All prospective vendors are requested to participate in the EOI with prior confirmation to following email IDs: **athaley_ss@ongc.co.in / hoizal_kv@ongc.co.in** latest by 10.01.2023.

For further details, please visit ONGC e-portal: **http://tenders.ongc.co.in.**

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CIN:U24232RJ2011SGC035067 Website: http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in
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RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur.

RISL invites ebids from the eligible bidders for the following:

NIB No./ Date/ Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost/EMD	Start of sale /Last date
188/12.12.2022 (RIS2223WSOB 00094)	Request for Proposal (RFP) for Providing Additional Infrastructure in BTH for Additional Seats.	Rs.1.04 Cr./ Rs. 2.08 Lacs	16.12.2022 30.12.2022

Details can be seen on the websites http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in. Bids are to be submitted through http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.
Raj.Samwad/C/22/11773 Technical Director (Civil & Electrical)

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone, Ajmer
No.:-ACE/AJ/TECH/F2(30A-Ajmer)/D-4250 Date:-08.12.2022
NIB No.:-PWD2223A3132
Notice Inviting Bid No.20/2022-23

Bids for 03 No. Works are invited from interested bidders **upto 6.00 PM on Monday 02 January 2023.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the State; and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 1704.37 Lacs.**
UBN No:-PWD2223WSOB12339, PWD2223WLOB12340 & PWD2223WLOB12341.

(Vikas Dixit)
Additional Chief Engineer
PWD, Zone, Ajmer.
DIPR/C/15833

TAMIL NADU STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
E-Mail: tnsacs@gmail.com - Phone No.044-28190467 / 28190891.

Call for Expression of Interest from Chartered Accountant Firms

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are invited from CAG empanelled Chartered Accountant firms to conduct

(1) The Statutory Audit of Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society, Chennai
(2) The Internal Audit of DAPCU's, NGO's, Medical Colleges Hospitals & Peripheral Units implementing programmes of TANSACS.

for a financial year 2022-23, engagement initially for one year and can be extended on an annual basis for a maximum of 3 years.

Submission of forms upto : **30.12.2022** upto **5.00 pm**
Note: Quote (1) & (2) Separate cover with mark (1) & (2) /
EOI (s) sent by TELEFAX / EMAIL will not be entertained.
For forms and more information please see web site : **www.tnsacs.in**

PROJECT DIRECTOR
MEMBER SECRETARY

DIPR/ 1266 /DISPLAY/2022

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

इसरो ISRO
भारत सरकार / Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन / Indian Space Research Organisation
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
तिरुवनंतपुरम / Thiruvananthapuram - 695 022

विज्ञापन सं. वीएसएससी 321 दिनांक 16.12.2022
ADVERTISEMENT NO. VSSC - 321 Dated 16.12.2022
निम्नलिखित पद के लिए ऑन लाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।
INVITES ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION

क्रम सं. Sl. No	पद Position	अनिवार्य योग्यताएं Essential Qualifications	पद की संख्या No.of Position
1	वरिष्ठ परियोजना सहयोगी Senior Project Associate	भौतिकी/वायुमंडलीय विज्ञान में पीएच.डी + जलवायु/वायुमंडलीय प्रतिरूपण में अनुभव Ph.D in Physics / Atmospheric Science + Experience in Climate / Atmospheric modelling. या/OR भौतिकी / वायुमंडलीय विज्ञान में एम.एससी + जलवायु / वायुमंडलीय प्रतिरूपण में 4 वर्ष अनुसंधान का अनुभव M.Sc. in Physics / Atmospheric Science + 4 year research experience in Climate / Atmospheric modelling.	01

नोट: यह पद अस्थाई है और केवल विशिष्ट अवधि के लिए है।
Note: The position is temporary and is for specific duration only.
विशद विज्ञापन तथा अन्य ब्यौरे, यानी पदों की संख्या, शैक्षिक योग्यताएं आवेदनों का प्रस्तुतीकरण आदि केलिए कृपया दिनांक 16.12.2022 को 1000 बजे से दिनांक 07.01.2023 को 1700 बजे तक वीएसएससी वेबसाइट **www.vssc.gov.in** देखें।
For detailed advertisement and other details viz. number of positions, educational qualifications, submission of applications, etc. please visit VSSC website **www.vssc.gov.in** from 1000 hrs on 16.12.2022 to 1700 hrs on 07.01.2023.
"सरकार एक ऐसे कार्यक्रम का प्रयास करती है जो लिंग संतुलन की अभिव्यक्ति करता है तथा महिला उम्मिदवारों को आवेदन देने हेतु प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है।"
"Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply"

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Commissioner, 5th Floor, MS Building, Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 01 Ph: 080-22207784

No.: SWD/PETC/S-4/CR-01/2022-23 Date: 15.12.2022

NOTIFICATION OF TENDER
(Through e-tendering only)

Short Term Tender is invited from Reputed & Prestigious Registered Training Institutions through E-Procurement Portal, to provide Residential Pre-Examination Training to Scheduled Caste Candidates to Join Various Defence Forces / Uniform Services for the year 2022-23. Tender notification number is given below.

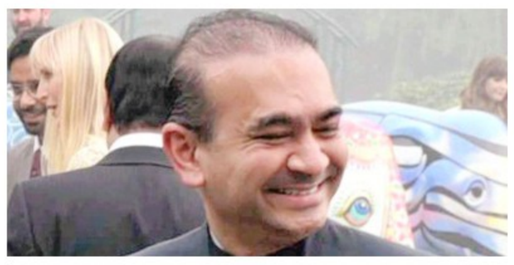
SWD/PETC/S-4/CR-01/SC/2022-23.

For More details please visit website
https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

The Tender is opening on: 16.12.2022 and the last date for submission of tender is 31.12.2022 at 5:30 P.M.

Sd/-, Commissioner
Social Welfare Department
Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/LC/3544/2022-23

INBRIEF



Nirav Modi loses bid to take extradition fight to U.K. court

Nirav Modi, the fugitive diamond merchant wanted in India to stand trial on fraud and money laundering charges, on Thursday suffered another setback in his legal battle against his extradition as the High Court in London denied him permission to appeal against the move in the U.K. Supreme Court. In a ruling delivered within just over a week of the U.K.'s Crown Prosecution Service submitting its response to the appeal application on behalf of the Indian government, the judges also ruled that the "certification of a point of law be refused" that would have allowed his plea to progress to the higher court. PTI

Former Minister Shankar Chaudhary is Gujarat Speaker

Former Minister and senior legislator Shankar Chaudhary, also chairman of Banas Dairy, was on Thursday named the next Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly while another senior legislator Jetha Bharwad has been named as the Deputy Speaker. Their names were announced by the BJP on Thursday. The election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker is scheduled on December 20, a day after the new Assembly convenes on December 19. Winning from Tharad seat in north Gujarat, Mr. Chaudhary, 52, was expected to be inducted in the Ministry with some important department but surprisingly he has been picked up for the role of the Assembly speaker.

Bones found in Mehrauli forest belong to Shraddha

The Delhi Police on Thursday said that most of the bones recovered by the forensics team from the Mehrauli forest belong to the murdered Shraddha Walkar. Weeks after they recovered the bones from the forest with the help of the accused Aftab Poonawalla who accompanied the police and forensic teams to identify the spots where he allegedly threw Ms. Walkar's bones, a forensic report was submitted to the Delhi Police. The report has revealed that the bones belong to the murdered woman. All 13 bones recovered from the area have matched the DNA collected from Ms. Walkar's father, Vikas Walkar. Only a part of a skull did not match.

'Linking Gambia deaths with Indian medicine premature'

The WHO drew a premature link between the deaths of children in Gambia and the four India-made cough syrups which adversely impacted the image of the country's pharmaceutical products across the globe, India's drug regulator has told the global health body. In the latest letter to Dr. Rogerio Gaspar, Director at WHO, Drugs Controller General of India Dr. V.G. Somani said a statement issued by the global health body in October in the wake of the deaths "was unfortunately amplified by the global media which led to a narrative being built internationally targeting the quality of Indian pharmaceutical products".

Public servants can be found guilty of graft on circumstantial proof: SC

The stink of corruption has a pervasive impact on the efficient administration and governance of the country; large-scale corruption retards nation-building activities and everyone has to suffer on that count, observes the top court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday held that the demand and acceptance of bribe or illegal gratification by a public servant can be inferred by a court on circumstantial proof in the absence of direct evidence.

The Bench, led by Justice S. Abdul Nazeer, said the "stink of corruption" has a "pervasive impact" on the efficient administration and governance of the country. Corrupt officials have a demoralising effect on honest public servants. Corruption by public servants has become a "gigantic problem". Large-scale corruption retards nation-building activities and everyone has to suffer on that count, the court observed.

"We hope and trust that complainants and prosecution make sincere efforts to ensure that corrupt public servants are brought to book and convicted, so that the administration and governance becomes unpolluted and free from corruption," Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who authored the judgment for the five-judge Bench, appealed.

> We hope prosecution make sincere efforts to ensure that corrupt public servants are brought to book and convicted
>
> **JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA**
> Supreme Court Judge

The other judges on the Bench were Justices B.R. Gavai, A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian.

The court, quoting from its preceding judgments on the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, said it is a "sad but a bitter reality that corruption is corroding, like cancerous lymph nodes, the vital veins of the body politics, social fabric of efficiency in the public service and demoralising the honest officers".

The Bench was answering a reference on the question whether public servants could be convicted for corruption under Section 7 (public servant taking gratification other than legal remuneration in respect of an official act) and 13 (1)(d)(i) and (ii) (criminal misconduct by a public servant) in the absence of direct oral or documentary evidence due to unavailability of the complainant owing to his death or for any other reasons.

"In the absence of the evidence of the complainant (through direct, primary, oral, documentary evidence), it is permissible to draw a deduction of culpability or guilt of a public servant under Sections 7, 13 (1)(d)(i) and (ii) read with 13(2) based on other evidence used by the prosecution," Justice Nagarathna observed.

The prosecution can prove its case of corruption with the help of any other witness, oral or documentary evidence or circumstantial evidence in cases in which the complainants have turned hostile. The trial would not abate or result in an acquittal.

Justice Nagarathna said if a bribe-giver offers to pay illegal gratification without there being any demand from the public servant and the latter simply accepts the offer and receives the payment, it would be a case of "acceptance" under Section 7 of the PC Act.

On the other hand, if the accused public servant makes a demand for a bribe and accepts the payment, it would be a case of "obtainment" and an offence under 13 (1)(d)(i) and (ii) of the PC Act.

But both the offer by the bribe-giver and the demand and acceptance of the illegal gratification have to be effectively proved by the prosecution as a fact.

"In other words, mere acceptance and receipt of the illegal gratification without anything more would not make it an offence under Section 7 and 13 (1)(d)(i) and (ii) of the Act," the court said.

Justice Nagarathna interpreted that a court of law could use its discretion to make a "presumption of fact" of the offer made and bribe demanded or accepted by an accused official based on the material on record.

Netanyahu to visit UAE, India next year: envoy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will visit the United Arab Emirates in 2023, said Israel's Ambassador to India, Naor Gilon, in New Delhi on December 15, 2022. He also mentioned that Mr. Netanyahu will visit India next year, after visiting the UAE. The envoy's information is an indicator that Israel-UAE relations will be prominent in India's extended neighbourhood in West Asia.

Addressing a meeting organised as part of the 15th India-Israel Forum hosted by the Ananta Aspen Centre, the envoy described technology as the foundation for the future and mentioned the I2U2 arrangement consisting of India, Israel, UAE and the United States as a grouping that will help the people of the member countries as well as the world.

" The issue of Palestine is there but it is no longer the defining matter," Mr. Gilon said.

Curbing air pollution in India needs efforts across South Asia: WB report

Suhasini Haidar
Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India has six large airsheds, some of them shared with Pakistan, between which air pollutants move. While existing measures by the government can reduce particulate matter, significant reduction is possible only if the territories spanning the airsheds implement coordinated policies, says a report by the World Bank made public on Thursday.

Using a modelling approach over South Asia as a whole, the report lays out multiple scenarios and the costs involved in reducing the average South Asian's exposure to particulate matter.

Currently over 60% of South Asians are exposed to an average 35 g/m3 of PM2.5 annually. In some parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP) it spiked to as much as 100 g/m3 - nearly 20 times the upper limit of 5 g/m3 recommended by the World Health Organisation, says the World Bank report.

Cause for concern: A car drives past the India Gate amidst heavy smog in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

The six major airsheds in South Asia where air quality in one affected the other were: West/Central IGP that included Punjab (Pakistan), Punjab (India), Haryana, part of Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh; Central/Eastern IGP: Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bangladesh; Middle India: Odisha/Chhattisgarh; Middle India: Eastern Gujarat/Western Maharashtra; Northern/Central Indus River Plain: Pakistan, part of Afghanistan; and Southern Indus Plain and further west: South Pakistan, Western Afghanistan extending into Eastern Iran.

When the wind direction was predominantly northwest to the southeast, 30% of the air pollution in Indian Punjab came from the Punjab Province in Pakistan and, on average, 30% of the air pollution in the largest cities of Bangladesh (Dhaka, Chittagong, and Khulna) originated in India. In some years, substantial pollution flowed in the other direction across borders.

What this means is that even if Delhi National Capital Territory were to fully implement all air pollution control measures by 2030 while other parts of South Asia continued to follow current policies, it wouldn't keep pollution exposure below 35 g/m3. However if other parts of South Asia also adopted all feasible measures it would bring pollution below that number. "This is also the case with many other cities in South Asia, especially those in the IGP. Accounting for the interdependence in air quality within airsheds in South Asia is necessary when weighing alternative pathways for pollution control," the report noted.

The report analysed multiple scenarios to reduce air pollution with varying degrees of policy implementation and cooperation among countries.

The most cost-effective one, which calls for full coordination between airsheds, would cut the average exposure of PM 2.5 in South Asia to 30 g/m^3 at a cost of $278 million (₹2,400 crore) per g/m of reduced exposure, and save more than 7,50,000 lives annually.

Parliamentary panel, Home Secretary quiz Delhi airport officials

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The IGI airport has been facing problems of overcrowding and long queues in the recent past

A parliamentary standing committee has questioned the officials of Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on infrastructure gaps at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport resulting in overcrowding, long queues and passengers missing their flights in the recent past.

The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture chaired by YSR Congress leader Vijaysai Reddy was holding the meeting to discuss an agenda that was decided before the messy scenes unfolded at IGI over the past 10 days on "Development of Greenfield and Brownfield Airports and Issues pertaining to Civil Enclaves in Defence Airports".

The meeting was attended by DIAL deputy MD Narayan Rao as well as officials of the Association of Private Airport Operators.

The DIAL officials sought to blame the revival in passenger demand, which has breached pre-COVID levels.

A separate meeting was held by Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla on the immigration facility at the airport. The meeting held earlier in the day was also attended by Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Director of Intelligence Bureau, Bureau of Immigration, Central Industry Security Force and DIAL officials.

Sources said Mr. Bhalla raised concerns about slow movement of immigration queues and discussed the need to ensure all immigration counters were manned and the need to provide space for more counters.

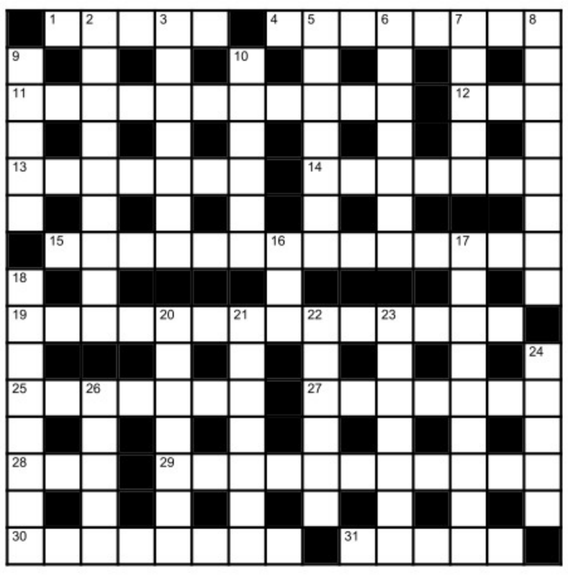
The broader issue of infrastructure gaps, including security infrastructure and those pertaining to passenger amenities, was also discussed.

TH CROSSWORD + 13738

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Most staple South Indian food and dance (5)
4 Spears Spooner's mean thugs in Sydney (8)
11 Limpid and deceptively real CNN stunt? Not new! (11)
12 One hundred percent more! (3)
13 Large drug injected, overdosed after party, moved aimlessly (7)
14 Model thieves? No current merchants! (7)
15 Songs like 'Ek Do Teen...'? (7,7)
19 Che's grave crises involved extra cost for food provision (7,7)
25 Competitive corporate world may care about following art movements (3,4)
27 Bothersome! Unemployed black men ushering in crime (7)
28 Sense of identity that exists before essence of ignorance gets dissolved (3)
29 Live with a clean good kind of missionary (11)
30 Scorers shifting syllables in mind (8)
31 Part of Tour Alsace spanning Europe and Asia (5)

Down

2 Roaming satrap! Our Jurassic Park giant! (9)
3 Intellectual lady's beginning to build usable careers (3,4)
5 Persian 'birds' train regularly (7)
6 Modi possess peculiar art of holding, growing, something intoxicating (3,4)
7 Odd unusual type! Real eccentric basically! (5)
8 20 Across? Small South-Eastern director (8)
9 Look at solid runs scored (5)
10 Some hard nuts on way back to Siberia (6)
16 No banks to put hundred thousand (3)
17 Lamenting call that is age inappropriate (9)
18 Greedy English certainly shackled India with new taxes at start (8)
20 Description of mega changes in Indian Railway (7)
21 High society girl dismisses one's advance (7)
22 Respect a good inspiring environment (6)
23 Kind of larger, universal standard (7)
24 Acute angle? Drawing one? No...No! (5)
26 Damage involving Republican abuse online (5)

SUDOKU

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6	8						2	9
	9			4				7
5	2							3
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					4	2		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS5650 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	5	2	7	8	1	9	3	4
8	4	3	5	9	2	7	6	1
9	7	1	4	6	3	2	5	8
1	2	5	6	7	4	3	8	9
7	3	8	9	1	5	4	2	6
4	6	9	3	2	8	5	1	7
5	1	4	8	3	7	6	9	2
2	9	7	1	5	6	8	4	3
3	8	6	2	4	9	1	7	5

FAITH

Significance of Margazhi

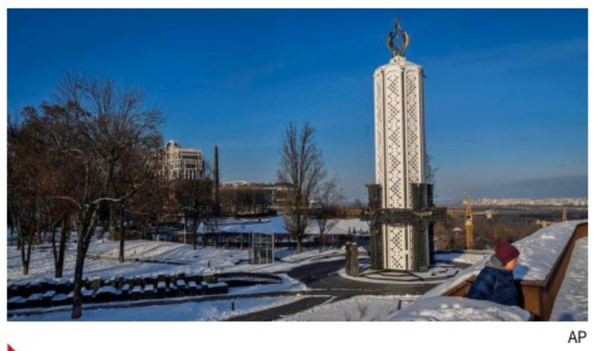
No other month has a full bouquet of events – spiritual and cultural – as the Tamil month of Margazhi. Although weddings and housewarming ceremonies are traditionally not conducted, Margazhi is in fact the queen among the months. It is the month in which bhakti resonates in the air, with devotees coming out on to the streets, singing bhajans, homemakers welcoming ascetics, and devotion snowballs among the ordinary people.

Margazhi, also known as dhanur, in view of the fact that Sun moves into dhanur rasi, is the month that is dear to Lord Krishna Himself. "I am Margazhi among months," he says and all those who think of Him and pray to Him, will be assured of Krishna's grace, said Dhamal Ramakrishnan in a discourse. The Bhagavatam says the highest duty of a man consists in doing that which generates devotion to the Supreme Being, devotion which fills the heart of man with peace. One may wonder at the need to wake up early in the morning, when it is still cold and set forth singing bhajans or songs. There is a reason for this.

Tamil months from Thai to Aani are termed Uttarayana and the months from Aadi to Margazhi as Dakshinayana. From Aadi to Margazhi, devas are said to be in slumber (a calendar year for us is just one day for devas) and come awake from the first of Margazhi. The early morning hour of 3 a.m. is Brahma Muhurtam, the auspicious hour when devas open their eyes and bless devotees. This is the reason why students are entreated to study early in the morning. "*Kalai ezhundha vudan padippu*" says poet Subramania Bharati. If one meditates on Krishna and prays to Him, even sins will not come near such a devotee.

STRASBOURG

EU Parliament recognises Ukraine Soviet-era famine as 'genocide'



AP

The European Parliament on Thursday approved a resolution declaring the 1930s starvation of millions in Ukraine under Soviet leader Joseph Stalin a "genocide". The step comes days after Ukraine marked 90 years since the famine and as Russian forces wage a devastating war against the country. AFP

SUVA

Fiji Opposition calls for halt to election count after 'anomaly'

AFP

Fiji's Opposition on Thursday demanded counting stop in the coup-prone nation's bitterly fought general election, alleging serious "anomalies" that put the poll's legitimacy in doubt. Fiji held a general election on Wednesday — a vote seen as a test of the country's fledgling democracy. AFP

ISTANBUL

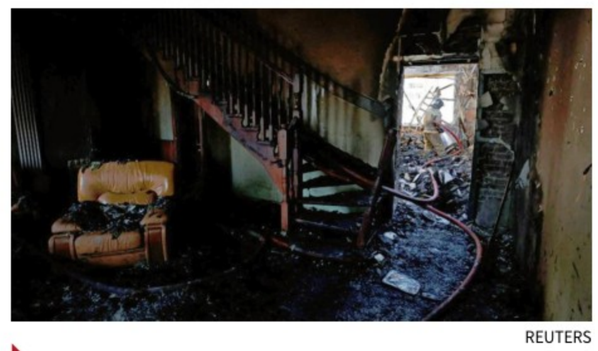
Huge crowds of Turks rally to support Istanbul's banned mayor

REUTERS

Tens of thousands of Turks swarmed a central Istanbul square on Thursday in solidarity with the city's Opposition mayor after he was banned from politics ahead of next year's presidential election. A criminal court on Wednesday sentenced Ekrem Imamoglu to more than two years in prison and barred him from holding office. AFP

KYIV

Russian shelling kills two, cuts power in Kherson, says Ukraine



REUTERS

Russian shelling on Thursday killed two people in the southern city of Kherson and left it without power, Ukrainian officials said, in the latest bombardments since its recapture by Kyiv last month. The deputy head of the president's office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, said on social media that Russian forces had shelled the city centre. AFP

'U.S. created Indo-Pacific concept to contain China'

Chinese Ambassador to France Lu Shaye blames 'foreign forces' for fanning recent protests in the country; reiterates Beijing's hardening opposition to groupings such as the Quad

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

Locked and loaded: An MH-60 Seahawk seen on the U.S. Navy's *USS Tripoli* assault ship while docked off Sydney in November. AFP

There "is no such concept as Indo-Pacific" which was "created by the United States" to bring in partners such as India to "contain" China, a Chinese diplomat has said, reflecting Beijing's hardening opposition to both Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy as well as regional groupings such as the Quad.

"In fact, there is no such concept as an 'Indo-Pacific in geopolitics," Chinese diplomat and Ambassador to France Lu Shaye said in an interaction with French journalists, a transcript of which was published on Wednesday by China's Embassy in Paris.

"It is a concept created by the U.S.", he added. "In the past, we used to talk about the Pacific or the Asia-Pacific region, never about the Indo-Pacific. Why did the Americans include the Indian Ocean? It is because they believe their Asia-Pacific allies alone are no longer enough to contain China, they want to bring in India and other U.S. allies, such as France, which considers itself an Indo-Pacific country. This is wrong."

Asked if it was "wrong" for France to consider itself as an Indo-Pacific country, he continued: "I think it is wrong for France to position itself in this way, because it is a confrontational mentality, a Cold War mentality, and that is exactly what we are against."

His comments underline Beijing's hardening view of both the Indo-Pacific idea as well as regional groupings such as the Quad. China officially does not use the term, and refers to the region as the Asia-Pacific.

Change in tone

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who initially dismissed the Quad as an idea that was as transient "as sea foam", also struck a harder tone earlier this year, when he equated the U.S., Australia, India, Japan Quad grouping with the "Five Eyes" intelligence alliance involving the Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the U.S. and U.K. and the AUKUS (Australia-U.K.-U.S.) defence pact.

"The U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy is becoming a byword for bloc politics," he said during China's annual Parliament session. "It professes desire for international cooperation, but in reality is stoking regional rivalry. From Five Eyes and Quad to AUKUS... It is by no means a blessing but a sinister move. The real goal for the Indo-Pacific strategy is to establish an Indo-Pacific version of NATO."

India has strongly pushed back against China's invoking of NATO as a comparison, and pointed to the fact that India is not a U.S. ally and the Quad was not a military alliance. Indian officials have also rejected China's argument that the U.S. was "stoking" recent tensions in India-China relations, which New Delhi attributes to Beijing's aggressive posture along the Line of Actual Control. Most Chinese strategic experts, in contrast, attribute the downturn in relations to India's increasingly close ties with the U.S.

'Foreign forces'

Mr. Lu, in the interview, also accused unnamed "foreign forces" for being involved in November's protests in China against lockdowns and restrictions under the "zero-COVID" policy, which were removed finally on December 7. Beijing had initially announced easing measures in early November, but an outbreak of cases around the country that month led to only more lockdowns, fanning public frustration and culminating in protests end-November.

"Some local governments did not fully understand the central government's policies," he said. "We had strict policies in the past but when the central government asked to ease them, they were unable to fully understand it in the first place."

China recalls six diplomats from the U.K. over 'violence'

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

China has removed six diplomats from the U.K., including its consul-general in Manchester, after they were accused of assaulting a Hong Kong protester in the northern English city, Britain said on Wednesday.

U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said the six envoys had left the country by a Wednesday deadline imposed by London for them to waive their diplomatic immunity and be questioned by the police over the October incident.

"In response to our requests, the Chinese government has now removed from the U.K. those officials, including the consul-general himself," Mr. Cleverly said.

One killed as Afghan Taliban shell border town: Pakistan

Associated Press
QUETTA

Primary care: A man injured by the Afghan forces shelling receives treatment at a hospital in Chaman on Thursday. AP

Pakistani authorities on Thursday said one person was killed and 11 were wounded when Afghan Taliban forces fired mortars toward civilians near the southwestern Chaman border crossing, reflecting increasing tension between the neighbouring nations.

The latest violence follows a series of deadly incidents and attacks that have strained relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan's Taliban rulers in recent months. It was not immediately clear what preceded the shots near Chaman, a key trade route between the two sides.

Thursday's ongoing violence came days after seven Pakistani civilians were killed in the across-border shelling by the Taliban forces. No military spokesman was immediately available for comment and there was also no comment from the Afghan Taliban.

Akhtar Mohammad, a doctor at a hospital in Chaman, said staff there received 12 wounded people following the clashes. One of them later died and some of the injured were listed in critical condition.

Security officials say Pakistan's Army responded to the Afghan fire, but did not give further details.

Authorities accused the Afghan Taliban forces of intentionally targeting the civilian population. The officials said the exchange of fire had subsided and Pakistani authorities were in contact with the Afghan Taliban rulers to prevent any further escalation.

'Will fight sanctions with shift in trade'

Reuters
MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Russia would expand trade cooperation with new partners, including by switching gas flows to eastern neighbours, in order to combat Western sanctions.

Mr. Putin said that Russia would develop its economic relations with partners in Asia, Africa and Latin America to thwart Western efforts to isolate it.

Iran blames U.S. after being removed from UN rights body

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

A simple majority with 29 members voting in favour led to adopting the move by the Commission

Iran on Thursday accused the United States of orchestrating its removal from a UN women's rights body over its response to protests triggered by death of Mahsa Amini.

The Islamic republic has seen waves of protests since the September 16 death in custody of Amini, a young Iranian Kurd who had been arrested for allegedly violating the country's dress code for women.

Hundreds of people have been killed and thousands arrested in the street violence, leading to international condemnation and Iran's removal on Wednesday from the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW).

Iran pointed the finger of blame at the United States, saying the move was a result of its arch-foe's concerted efforts and that it lacked "legal justification".

Iran, which was elected to the body in April for a four-year term, was stripped of its membership with immediate effect. A simple majority with 29 members voting in favour led to adopting the move.

Shouting match, briefing war: Prince Harry takes aim at William in the Netflix series

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Prince Harry accused his brother William of a furious response to his plans to quit royal life but insisted he had few regrets about leaving in final docuseries episodes out on Thursday.

Mr. Harry, 38, and his wife Ms. Meghan, 41, have lifted the lid on their experiences in the institution in the new series, risking a further rift with his family.

The brothers are reportedly now no longer on speaking terms since Mr. Harry and Ms. Meghan – also known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex – left for North America.

In the final three episodes of "Harry & Meghan", Harry said he proposed to be "half in, half out" of the royal family, working for his grandmother Queen Elizabeth II but being self-funded, but that didn't go over well.

"It was terrifying to have my brother scream and shout at me and my father (King Charles III) say things that just simply weren't true." Much of the content of the final episodes covered Ms. Meghan's difficulties adapting to royal life and the negative media coverage.

INBRIEF

Government's share sale in IRCTC oversubscribed

The sale of government's up to 5% stake in IRCTC got oversubscribed on the first day of the offer, with institutional investors putting in bids worth ₹3,800 crore. In the two-day offer-for-sale (OFS), the government is selling 4 crore shares, or 5% stake, in Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) at a floor price of ₹680 a share. Shares of IRCTC settled at ₹689.20 apiece, down 6.19% over the previous close on the BSE. The government holds 67.40% stake in IRCTC. PTI

Reliance Consumer unveils FMCG brand 'Independence'

Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd., through its wholly owned subsidiary Reliance Consumer Products Ltd., has unveiled FMCG brand 'Independence' for retail indigenous consumer packaged goods. To begin with, the brand has been introduced in Gujarat, offering products under several categories, including staples and daily essentials. "The brand stands for truly Indian solutions for real Indian problems," said Isha Ambani, Director, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd.

TMB to sell Kotak Mahindra insurance unit's products

Private sector lender Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd. (TMB) has entered into a strategic alliance with Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Co. Ltd., to market the latter's general insurance products. "We feel that this tie-up arrangement for delivery of general insurance products is a momentous occasion for the bank," the private sector lender's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer S. Krishnan said in a statement.

Sensex falls 1.4%, rupee slips 27 paise on hawkish U.S. Fed

Federal Reserve startles the market with tone as investors were expecting a softer approach after better-than-expected U.S. inflation numbers, says an analyst; 'rupee still among weakest currencies'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices fell by about 1.3% and the rupee weakened by 27 paise against the U.S. dollar on Thursday after the Federal Reserve raised its policy interest rate by 50 basis points and set a 'hawkish tone', analysts said.

The S&P BSE Sensex slumped 879 points. or 1.4%. to 61,799.03. Sensex stocks that lost the most include TechMahindra (3.98%), Infosys (2.59%), Titan (2.57%), HDFC (2.07%) and ITC (1.87%).

The NSE Nifty 50 index too fell 245.40 points, or 1.32%, to 18,414.90 points. "The Fed has startled the market by maintaining its hawkish tone, as investors were expecting a softer approach after... better-than-expected [U.S.] inflation numbers," said Vinod Nair, head of Research at Geojit Financial. "IT stocks led to pessimism in the domestic market as recession fears grow in the global economies following the Fed's comments," he said.

The rupee also came under pressure, sliding 27 paise to 82.76 against the dollar. Anindya Banerjee, vice-president, Currency Derivatives & Interest Rate Derivatives at Kotak Securities Ltd., said, "rupee continues to remain one of the weakest currencies as demand for dollars remains strong in the onshore market and lack of exporter selling and carry trades keep supply low".

"Over the near term we expect a range of 82.25-83.00 on spot," he said.

Slippery slope
Though U.S. inflation has slowed, the Federal Reserve has not swerved from the path of raising rates

- Recession fears in global economies grow following Fed's comments
- Dip in IT stocks led to pessimism in the domestic market
- Demand for dollars remains strong
- Rupee may trade between 82.25 and 83 in the near term: analyst

U.S. Fed's policymakers see higher interest rates for longer

Reuters
WASHINGTON

Federal Reserve policymakers expect to raise U.S. interest rates further, and keep them high for longer, than they had earlier anticipated, signaling Wednesday that squashing high inflation will likely take a bigger toll on the economy and the job market than they had hoped.

And though Fed Chair Jerome Powell said that the latest policymakers' projections don't necessarily mean the economy will fall into a recession, he did suggest the risk is worth it, and that the Fed has no plans to cut rates to cushion the blow.

"Reducing inflation is likely to require a sustained period of below-trend growth and some softening of labor conditions," Mr. Powell said.

U.S. central bankers see the policy rate, now in the 4.25%-4.5% range after Wednesday's 50-basis-point increase, rising to 5.1% by the end of next year, according to the median estimate in the Fed's quarterly summary of economic projections published after its meeting.

Meanwhile they expect it to take longer to get to the Fed's 2% inflation goal, with projections showing inflation by the the personal consumption expenditures price index, now running at 6%, cooling to 3.1% in the last quarter of 2023 and 2.5% by end of 2024.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,799	-1.40
US Dollar	82.76	-0.33
Gold	54,554	-0.65
Brent oil	82.10	0.35

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	4043.75	-12.05
Adani Ports	883.95	-16.60
Apollo Hosp	4642.90	-23.25
Asian Paints	3130.60	-15.35
Axis Bank	938.15	-4.25
Bajaj Auto	3619.30	-32.75
Bajaj Finserv	1604.90	-18.15
Bajaj Finance	6625.40	-29.80
Bharti Airtel	826.35	-2.85
BPCL	349.15	0.40
Britannia Ind	4465.45	55.75
Cipla	1101.80	-10.90
Coal India	228.20	-3.95
Divis Lab	3365.45	-28.40
Dr Reddys Lab	4468.95	-35.60
Eicher Motors	3303.50	-65.90
Grasim Ind	1786.90	-34.95
HCL Tech	1042.35	-13.85
HDFC	2672.35	-57.00
HDFC Bank	1631.80	-30.45
HDFC Life	580.20	-0.15
Hero MotoCorp	2770.85	23.50
Hindalco	461.00	-8.30
Hind Unilever	2663.25	-21.40
ICICI Bank	908.80	-12.95
IndusInd Bank	1239.60	-13.55
Infosys	1540.50	-38.90
ITC	338.85	-6.55
JSW Steel	743.35	-14.60
Kotak Bank	1863.20	-10.00
L&T	2177.55	-17.90
M&M	1286.95	0.50
Maruti Suzuki	8584.15	-57.45
NestleIndia	19737.85	-325.65
NTPC	172.10	0.50
ONGC	147.45	-0.15
PowerGrid Corp	216.35	-2.85
Reliance Ind	2578.35	-37.15
SBI Life	1273.50	3.75
State Bank	615.95	-9.55
Sun Pharma	1002.20	1.95
TataConsumerProduct	804.90	-10.55
Tata Motors	416.70	-1.20
Tata Steel	110.95	-2.10
TCS	3305.10	-60.25
Tech Mahindra	1022.75	-42.35
Titan	2522.70	-68.40
UltraTech Cement	7113.90	-83.65
UPL	770.75	-10.15
Wipro	395.20	-4.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 15

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.56	82.88
Euro	87.66	88.00
British Pound	101.86	102.30
Japanese Yen (100)	60.34	60.59
Chinese Yuan	11.85	11.90
Swiss Franc	88.94	89.33
Singapore Dollar	60.93	61.18
Canadian Dollar	60.79	61.05
Malaysian Ringitt	18.68	18.77
Australian Dollar	55.85	56.07

Source:Indian Bank

Subscription to gold bond issue will open on December 19

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank will issue two tranches of Sovereign Gold Bonds, which will open for public subscription in December and March. Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) 2022-23-Series III will open for subscription during the December 19-December 23 period and the 2022-23-Series IV during March 06-10, 2023, the Finance Ministry said on Thursday.

The tenor is 8 years, with an option of premature redemption after the fifth year. Buyers will also receive 2.5% interest per year on the nominal value.

The bond price is fixed on the basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity, published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association for the last three working days of the week preceding the subscription period.

Govt. said to be keen to extract gold from dumps at old mines

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India plans to invite bids to extract gold from 50 million tonnes of processed ore in a cluster of colonial-era mines in Karnataka, a senior government official with direct knowledge of the matter said on Thursday.

The Kolar fields, located about 65 km northeast of Bengaluru, are among the country's oldest gold mines. Closed more than 20 years ago, the mines held gold deposits worth about $2.1 billion, and India is now keen to take advantage of new technology that can extract gold from even the leftovers of ore processed in the past.

Other than gold, the Centre also aims to extract palladium from processed ore, or dumps, said the official. He said the government expects to invite bids in the next 4-6 months.

NBFCs seen growing at 10-12% in FY23 and FY24: ICRA Ratings

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Led by retail-focused players, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are likely to close the current fiscal and the next with a loan growth of 10-12% and see about 50 basis points improvement in profitability, according to ICRA Ratings.

The rating agency said retail-focused NBFCs are expected to grow 12-14% while the housing finance companies may grow at 10-12%. The forecast is based **The rating agency said microfinance and personal loans would continue to grow at a rapid pace** on asset-quality improvement and the overall pick up in credit demand.

However, microfinance and personal loans, which together constitute a quarter of the ₹25-lakh crore shadow banking sector, will continue to grow at a rapid pace. Sectoral profitability will improve by 40-50 basis points this fiscal.

myTVS raises ₹203 cr. more from Europe's Exor Group

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

myTVS, a part of TVS Mobility Group and a leading Indian player in the independent automobile aftermarket business, said it had raised an additional ₹203 crore from a fund managed by Lingotto, a wholly owned subsidiary of Exor NV in Amsterdam.

Exor had invested about ₹350 crore in myTVS in 2021. Along with this investment of ₹203 crore, Exor's stake in myTVS has increased to 11.5%.

GSH Group achieved carbon neutrality for 2021: CEO Thomas

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

GSH Group, a global facilities management firm, achieved carbon neutrality in its operations in India, U.S. and Europe for 2021, according to a top official.

"On Tuesday, we bagged the International Renewable Energy Certificate standard for 2021 for achieving carbon neutrality," CEO Mark Thomas said in an interview.

"Till 2021, we have saved 28% of energy consumption. From 2018-2020, the savings were about 22%. Another 6% was saved during the COVID-19 year due to less business travels."

Mark Thomas

The group was focused on becoming carbon negative by 2025, he added.

Space tech start-up GalaxEye raises $3.5 mn

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

GalaxEye Space, a space tech start-up focused on earth observation, has raised $3.5 million in seed round of funding led by Special Invest, a deep-tech venture capital firm.

The funding will be used for hiring talent and accelerating the launch of the world's first multi-sensor satellite for earth observation. The firm had raised an undisclosed sum in a round led by Special Invest in May 2021.

Home prices set for steep 6-10% jump this fiscal, says Crisil

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Home prices across the top six cities are set to jump 6-10% this fiscal and 3-5% in the next financial year because of a steep rise in raw material, labour and land costs, and relatively favourable demand-supply dynamics, as per a report.

The report by Crisil also said large residential realtors are on course to log a robust 25% sales growth in 2022-23 and 10-15% in the next fiscal. The unsold inventory level is down to 2.5 years from four years pre-pandemic, it added.

The agency expects residential prices to rise a further 3-5% in the next fiscal across the top six cities due to the steep increase in raw material, labour and land costs.

Sport

Panthers tame the Bulls; plucky Paltan end Thalaivas' dream run

PRO KABADDI LEAGUE

Sports Bureau

After beating Dabang Delhi comprehensively in Eliminator 1, Bengaluru Bulls was given a taste of its own medicine by Jaipur Pink Panthers. The Season 1 champion cruised to a 49-29 win in the first semifinal of the Pro Kabaddi League's ninth edition here on Thursday.

Trapped: It was a one-horse race as the Panthers defenders caught the Bulls raiders time and again. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Puneri Paltan's experience came to the fore as it rallied to get past Tamil Thalaivas 39-37 in the second semifinal. Ashan Kumar's Thalaivas came out guns blazing and took a 16-9 lead at one stage. However, Paltan clawed back through Pankaj Mohite (16 points) to turn the tables on Thalaivas.

The first semifnal was billed as a tussle between two star raiders – Bharat (Bulls) and Arjun Deshwal (Panthers) – but it was the Panthers' defence which did the heavy lifting in the knockout clash. Defenders Sahul Kumar (10 points), Ankush Rathee (5) and Reza Mirbagheri (5) did not allow the Bulls to get going. Bharat and Vikash Kandola, the star in the Eliminator, together could manage only two points more than Sahul. While Saurabh Nandal (4) and Aman (4) put up a good show in defence for the Season 6 champion, a raiding unit that was blunted gave the Bulls little chance against a marauding Panthers' frontline.

Bulls coach Randhir Sehrawat did not hold back after his side's loss. "Our offence also did not work, our defence also did not work. We played like Telugu Titans today," said Bulls coach Randhir Sehrawat.

"We were very happy to see the players understanding their roles and working as a unit," Panthers' assistant coach Upendra Kumar said.

Philosophy in fine fettle, expected to score in Wolf 777 Bangalore 1000 Guineas

BENGALURU: Philosophy, who is in fine fettle, is expected to score in the Wolf 777 Bangalore 1000 Guineas (1,600m), the first classic of the season to be held here on Friday (Dec. 16).

False rails (width about 2.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 MALAPRABHA PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2-15 p.m.: 1. Starry Wind (1) Md. Akram 62, 2. The Strength (8) Sai Kiran 60.5, 3. Smithsonian (5) Neeraj 60, 4. Baltimore (7) Antony 58, 5. Air Blast (2) R. Pradeep 56.5, 6. Habanero (3) Darshan 56, 7. Debonair (6) Md. Aliyar 55 and 8. Jersey Legend (4) Rayan 55.

1. SMITHSONIAN, 2. STARRY WIND, 3. AIR BLAST

2 LINGANAMAKKI PLATE (1,800m), rated 20 to 45, 2-45: 1. Peluche (7) S. John 62.5, 2. Tignanello (6) Antony 58, 3. Worldly Wise (5) P.S. Chouhan 56.5, 4. Ripple N Storm (4) Trevor 55.5, 5. Aquamatic (2) L.A. Rozario 55, 6. Banksy (1) Sandesh 55, 7. Bruce Almighty (8) Rayan 55 and 8. Stellar Gold (3) Neeraj 51.5.

1. RIPPLE N STORM, 2. TIGNANELLO, 3. WORLDLY WISE

3 ARDENT KNIGHT TROPHY (1,200m), maiden 2-y-o only, (Terms), 3-15: 1. Bold Act (5) Suraj 56, 2. Bourbon Bay (-) (-) 56, 3. Cat Whiskers (1) Neeraj 56, 4. Galahad (4) Shreyas S 56, 5. Ruling Dynasty (3) Srinath 56 and 6. Last Waltz (2) Salman K 54.5.

2. RULING DYNASTY, 2. GALAHAD

4 BANGALORE TURF CLUB TROPHY (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, (Terms), 3-45: 1. Ascoval (3) Srinath 60, 2. Golden Guest (4) Antony 60, 3. Golden Oaks (1) Sandesh 60 and 4. Kensington Court (2) Trevor 58.5.

1. ASCOVAL, 2. KENSINGTON COURT

5 WOLF 777 BANGALORE 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o fillies, (Terms), 4-15: 1. Inyouwebelieve (4) Srinath 57, 2. Mirra (8) Antony 57, 3. Philosophy (2) Sandesh 57, 4. Queen Spirit (7) Zervan 57, 5. Star Comet (5) Neeraj 57, 6. Tough Cookie (3) P.S. Chouhan 57, 7. Triple Wish (1) Suraj 57 and 8. Victoria Punch (6) Trevor 57.

1. PHILOSOPHY, 2. TRIPLE WISH, 3. VICTORIA PUNCH

6 PREMIUM SPIRIT STAKES (1,400m), rated 60 to 85, 4-45: 1. Knight In Hooves (6) M. Prabhakaran 62.5, 2. Peyo (5) Vinod Shinde 57.5, 3. Imperial Blue (2) Antony 54.5, 4. Watchmystars (1) Trevor 53.5, 5. Whizzo (3) Jagadeesh 53, 6. Promise Kept (7) Neeraj 51.5 and 7. Ruling Goddess (4) Shreyas S 50.

1. WATCHMYSTARS, 2. PROMISE KEPT

7 MALAPRABHA PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 5-15: 1. Pastiche (6) Darshan 60, 2. Rightly Noble (8) Srinath 58, 3. Gold Gray (2) Sai Kiran 56.5, 4. Anne Boleyn (3) Trevor 55.5, 5. Chain Of Thoughts (5) Shreyas S 54, 6. Rudram (1) Antony 54, 7. Aerospeed (7) Tousif 52 and 8. Elite Agent (4) Angad 52.

1. ANNE BOLEYN, 2. RUDRAM, 3. RIGHTLY NOBLE

Day's best: **RIPPLE N STORM**

Double: **SMITHSONIAN - ASCOVAL**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Wolf 777 to co-sponsor four Bangalore classics

BENGALURU: The Wolf 777 will jointly sponsor four classics of the Bangalore winter meeting 2022-23, which are The Wolf 777 Bangalore 1000 Guineas, The Wolf 777 Bangalore 2000 Guineas and The Wolf 777 Bangalore Oaks and the biggest event of the Bangalore winter racing calendar The Wolf 777 Bangalore Derby.

Briefing the media here, Shivkumar Kheny, chairman (BTC), said the BTC would like to welcome the Wolf 777 which has whole-heartedly come forward to sponsor the four classic races at the club and hope this partnership continues in years to come.

GIGANTIC MISSION

Deschamps and France's target: somehow stop magician Messi

Didier Deschamps will aim to stop Lionel Messi from creating history on Sunday. "We will do everything humanly possible for that not to happen. At the end of the match, someone is getting a third star on their shirt. Four years ago, he played as a centre forward against us. He's more of a two-man team now, with real freedom."

ON THE WAY UP

Argentina getting better and better: goalkeeper Martinez

Argentina has improved during the World Cup, said goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez. "Since I started playing in this team, we are getting better and better. We are not the Copa America team. We are not the Finalissima team. We are one step ahead. I dream of returning to Argentina and doing the Olympic lap at the Obelisco."

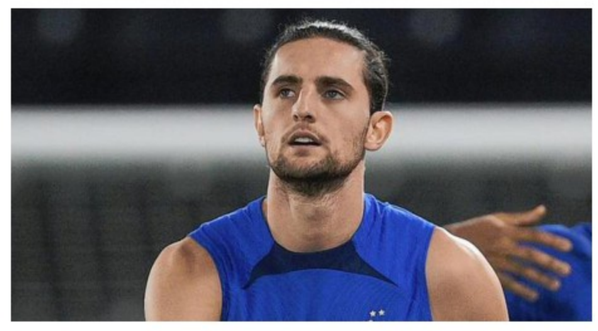
TEAM PLAYER

Griezmann always ready to run and do the hard work

France's Antoine Griezmann proved once again that he is the ultimate team player against Morocco. "I feel good in my legs, in my mind... The work I did on vacation and later with Atleti did me good, it was what I needed. I try to help the team as much as possible, as always," Griezmann said.

FINGERS CROSSED

Deschamps positive about Rabiot as virus hits the French squad



France coach Didier Deschamps is hopeful that Adrien Rabiot will be fit for the final as he revealed several members of his squad had shown "flu-like" symptoms. "Adrien was sick and so we left him at the hotel because we didn't want to take any risks, but we now have four days before the final so he should be available for Sunday."

Clinical and efficient France shatters the hopes of Morocco and a continent

Hernandez the unlikely scorer for *Les Bleus*' early strike as the left-back thumps the bouncing sphere; Mbappe puts an end to the Atlas Lions' fairy tale with a threaded through-ball to the newly introduced Kolo Muani for the easiest of tap-ins

FIFA WORLD CUP

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

Shaolin soccer: Theo Hernandez's kung fu style strike beats Morocco goalkeeper Bounou for France's opener. AP

Europe, home to just 10 percent of the world population, kept its stranglehold on the World Cup final as France defeated Morocco to give the continent a participant in every summit clash since 1954. In this semifinal between two nations inseparably tied by the history of French colonialism, the first African and Arab representative in the last four drew widespread support from the host and other countries with similar cultural and religious heritages.

In the red-jewelled Al Bayt with its splattering of Arabian white thobes, it was hard to spot an opposing fan but an expertly taken strike from Theo Hernandez brought a sudden hush to their cacophony like in a birdhouse at six am. Antoine Griezmann's subtle turn left Jawad El-Yamiq clutching at his shadows and France's player of this tournament quickly found a moving Kylian Mbappe in the middle.

The Moroccan block, regrettably, took the ball to an unmarked Hernandez, and he thumped the bouncing sphere inside with a high left footer as an onrushing Yassine Bounou was beaten for just the second time in this tournament. Achraf Dari, on the line, could not get the desired connection and Morocco was 1-0 down.

The Atlas Lions, however, were not ready to give up without a fight and Azzedine Ounahi tested Hugo Lloris with a stinging 25-yard drive.

Imminent threat

Then a long ball from the back saw Olivier Giroud sneak ahead of Romain Saiss, who had miraculously recovered to play after he was stretchered off against Portugal. The French all-time top-scorer's first-time shot grazed the post signalling the imminent threat.

The Morocco captain clearly was fighting on adrenaline and not at his physical best, his heavily strapped left thigh indicated. He was soon replaced by Selim Amallah, Saiss's courageous foray ending in the 21st minute. Morocco's other first-choice centre-back Nayef Aguerd was also ruled out right ahead of kick-off after initially making the match-day squad.

France could have scored its second when Aurelien Tchouameni found a lurking Mbappe. Bounou was beaten but El-Yamiq was there to thwart the danger with a timely slash.

The centre-back was soon at the other end, trying a spectacular bicycle kick to breach the French resistance, but Lloris was up to the task to push El-Yamiq's effort onto the post with the faintest of touches.

With 10 second-half minutes played, Morocco was wondering about its fate. Sofiane Boufal's cross from the left evaded the towering Youssef En-Nesyri and Yahia Attiyat Allah, too, failed to achieve the needed result when the ball came to him.

Morocco's legs and mind were tired from the relentless running, and Mbappe picked the moment to end the fairy tale. A miss pass in the middle spelt trouble and when the ball reached Mbappe, he shuffled it between his legs before threading it to the newly introduced Randal Kolo Muani for the easiest of tap-ins.

Led by the Paris-born manager Walid Regragui, Morocco's success has been no accident. The passion of a football-mad ruler Mohammed VI and the assimilation of its home-grown stars – Ounahi and striker En-Nesyri, the man who outjumped Cristiano Ronaldo – and the country's wider diaspora – Hakim Ziyech (born in Dronten, the Netherlands), Achraf Hakimi (Madrid), Sofiane Boufal (Paris) helped it to a place where no African team had ever reached.

Here they lost in the semis, but the 68,294 people at the desert colosseum, soon to be deserted, kept cheering the 26 brave men and Regragui; they'll be eternally eulogised for winning both on and off the pitch and daring a continent to dream again.

The result (semifinal): France 2 (Theo Hernandez 5, Muani 79) bt Morocco 0.

France is the first defending champion to reach the final since Brazil in 1998

Les Bleus have become the fifth team to win the World Cup and return to the final in the following edition after Italy (1934-1938), Brazil (1958-1962), Argentina (1986-1990) and Brazil again (1994-1998)

France has been successful in 16 of its last 18 World Cup knockout games (including a penalty shootout win)

France's Hugo Lloris (19 appearances) joined Germany's Manuel Neuer for the most World Cup games by a goalkeeper

The final two

December 17: **Third-place match:** Croatia vs. Morocco, 8.30 p.m. IST

December 18: **Final:** Argentina vs. France, 8.30 p.m.

We played honest football: Regragui

Spirit of unity: Regragui says that his players gave it their everything and went as far as they could. REUTERS

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

Walid Regragui, the 47-year-old Morocco manager, tasted his first defeat as a national team coach in the World Cup semifinals.

Despite enjoying 61 % possession for the first time in the tournament, Morocco failed to be clinical in the final third and missed several chances. Regragui, however, was proud of his team's achievements.

"We're disappointed for the Moroccan people tonight, we wanted to keep the dream alive. But we're pleased with what we've achieved. We felt that we could have gone even further but these small details help real champions, which we saw tonight, of course," he said in his post-match press interaction.

"Today, if I have regrets, it's the start of the game. We started quite poorly, and we conceded a goal very quickly and that made the difference. They allowed us to have quite a lot of possession, but we made too many mistakes to cause them problems."

"In spite of all of the injuries that we had, the tiredness, we pulled out all the stops and we gave everything," Regragui said.

"I think physically, we came up short tonight. We had too many players who were 60 % or 70 % and have been for a few games now. My players gave everything, and they went as far as they could. I really wanted to rewrite the history books, but you can't win a World Cup with miracles, you need to do it through hard work."

Regragui, who replaced Vahid Halilhodzic months before the tournament, defied critics and bookmakers to fashion a dream run as Morocco became the first African team to make it to the World Cup semifinals. The sports loving-nation with a football-mad ruler in Mohammed VI has benefitted from the state-of-the-art Mohammed VI Football Academy which was established in 2009 and further modernised in 2019 with a total expenditure of $16.8 million.

"His Majesty was also proud, the Moroccan people were proud," Regragui said. "I think the world as a whole is proud of this Moroccan team because we show great desire. We work hard, and we played honest, hard-working football. I think we've given a good image of Morocco and a good image of African football."

Siraj and Kuldeep knock the stuffing out of Bangladesh's batting line-up

INDIA IN BANGLADESH

N. Sudarshan
CHATTOGRAM

On the eve of the first Test against India, Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo had wanted his side to be competitive across the full length of the Test. But little would he have expected that he would be left a disappointed man after just two days of play.

At the end of proceedings on Thursday at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium here, the home side, after first letting the Indian lower order add a handsome 126 runs to the overnight score to finally finish on 404, abjectly surrendered with the bat, reduced to 133 for eight, a humongous 271 runs in the red. On a wicket that appeared to have eased up for batting, especially against the softer ball, Bangladesh displayed very little patience and dragged itself into the pits from where a climb back looks a gargantuan task.

After Mohammed Siraj, with a little help from Umesh Yadav, destroyed the Bangladesh top-order across two spells totalling nine overs (9-1-14-3), Kuldeep Yadav, playing his first Test in 22 months, gave the ball an almighty rip to leave the next set of batters bamboozled (10-3-33-4).

Siraj, in fact, struck with the very first ball of the innings, having Najmul Hossain caught behind by Rishabh Pant. Umesh, with his skiddy pace, forced Yasir Ali to chop one onto his stumps. If Umesh is all swish, Siraj is full of macho aggression, and he sings, often in the ear, as Litton Das found out. In his 29-ball stay until then, Litton had played a neat cameo, scoring 24 runs with five fours, including three on the bounce off Umesh. Siraj let out a few words, later revealed by the pacer himself to be an innocuous line that went "this is not T20 cricket, play sensibly". The very next ball, Litton didn't go fully down for a delivery that scooted off the surface and turned back to see the stumps rearranged. And when Siraj forced debutant opening batter Zakir Hasan to poke at a delivery that held its line and nick a catch to Pant, Bangladesh was staring down the barrel at 56 for four. With former Sri Lankan Rangana Herath as its spin bowling coach, Bangladesh would have prepared for the conventional tweakers in R. Ashwin and Axar Patel. But Kuldeep's unorthodox spin left them dazed. Skipper Shakib Al Hasan stepped out and tried to smother the turn but only managed an edge to Virat Kohli at first slip. Nurul Hasan was caught superbly at short-leg by Shubman Gill before Kuldeep turned one past Mushfiqur Rahim's inside-edge to trap him leg-before.

It was an ideal second act to his exploits in the morning, wherein Kuldeep had swept and reverse-swept his way to a career-best Test score (40, 114b, 5x4). Shreyas Iyer fell after adding just four runs to his overnight score, but Kuldeep and Ashwin (58, 113b, 2x4, 2x6) came together for a 92-run eighth-wicket partnership to knock the wind out of Bangladesh. By the evening, the hosts were still not breathing.

Nailed: Litton's cameo comes to an end with Siraj rearranging his stumps. AFP

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

K.L. Rahul b Khaled 22 *(54b, 3x4)*, Shubman Gill c Yasir b Taijul 20 *(40b, 3x4)*, Cheteshwar Pujara b Taijul 90 *(203b, 11x4)*, Virat Kohli lbw b Taijul 1 *(5b)*, Rishabh Pant b Mehidy 46 *(45b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Shreyas Iyer b Ebadot 86 *(192b, 10x4)*, Axar Patel lbw b Mehidy 14 *(26b, 2x4)*, R. Ashwin st. Nurul b Mehidy 58 *(113b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Kuldeep Yadav lbw b Taijul 40 *(114b, 5x4)*, Umesh Yadav (not out) 15 *(10b, 2x6)*, Mohammed Siraj c Mushfiqur b Mehidy 4 *(3b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-2, pen-5): 8; Total (in 133.5 overs): 404.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-41 (Gill, 13.2 overs), 2-45 (Rahul, 18.1), 3-48 (Kohli, 19.3), 4-112 (Pant, 31.4), 5-261 (Pujara, 84.2), 6-278 (Axar, 89.6), 7-293 (Shreyas, 97.6), 8-385 (Ashwin, 131.2), 9-393 (Kuldeep, 132.5).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Ebadot 21-2-70-1, Khaled 20-3-43-1, Shakib 12-4-26-0, Taijul 46-10-133-4, Mehidy 31.5-6-112-4, Yasir 1-0-7-0, Najmul 2-0-7-0.

BANGLADESH — 1ST INNINGS

Najmul Hossain c Pant b Siraj 0 *(1b)*, Zakir Hasan c Pant b Siraj 20 *(45b, 3x4)*, Yasir Ali b Umesh 4 *(17b)*, Litton Das b Siraj 24 *(30b, 5x4)*, Mushfiqur Rahim lbw b Kuldeep 28 *(58b, 3x4)*, Shakib Al Hasan c Kohli b Kuldeep 3 *(25b)*, Nurul Hasan c Gill b Kuldeep 16 *(22b, 3x4)*, Mehidy Hasan (batting) 16 *(35b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Taijul Islam b Kuldeep 0 *(4b)*, Ebadot Hussain (batting) 13 *(27b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-6, lb-3): 9; Total (for eight wkts. in 44 overs): 133.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Najmul, 0.1), 2-5 (Yasir, 3.3), 3-39 (Litton, 13.2), 4-56 (Zakir, 17.2), 5-75 (Shakib, 24.2), 6-97 (Nurul, 32.1), 7-102 (Mushfiqur, 34.2), 8-102 (Taijul, 34.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Siraj 9-1-14-3, Umesh 8-1-33-1, Ashwin 10-1-34-0, Kuldeep 10-3-33-4, Axar 7-3-10-0.

INBRIEF

Nadal and Swiatek are ITF's 2022 World Champions

Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek were honoured by the International Tennis Federation as its 2022 World Champions on Thursday after each claimed two Grand Slam titles this season. Nadal won despite finishing No. 2 in the ATP rankings behind Carlos Alcaraz, while Swiatek topped the year-end WTA rankings.

Becker out of prison after serving eight-month sentence

Tennis legend Boris Becker has been freed from prison after serving eight months of his sentence and now faces deportation from the United Kingdom. The 55-year-old German, who has lived in Britain since 2012, was released on Thursday morning ahead of his deportation.

Sunil Ramesh's century propels India into the final

Sunil Ramesh's 110 powered India past South Africa by 207 runs in the semifinal of the third T20 Cricket World Cup for the Blind at the Samprasiddhi Sports Estadio Cricket Stadium in Bengaluru. In the other semifinal, Bangladesh defeated Sri Lanka. India will take on Bangladesh on Saturday.

The scores (semifinals): India 337/6 in 20 overs (Sunil Ramesh 110, Ajay Kumar Reddy 81, A. Ravi 30, Prakash Jayaramaiah) bt South Africa 130 in 19.5 overs (Bhule Bhidla 33, Ajay Kumar Reddy).
Bangladesh 188/3 in 17 overs (Ashiqur Rahman 70, Salman 61) bt Sri Lanka 124 in 14.3 overs.

Southee takes over from Williamson as Test captain

Kane Williamson stepped down as New Zealand Test captain on Thursday after more than six years in charge but will remain skipper of the ODI and T20 teams. New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said the 32-year-old would be replaced as Test captain by veteran fast bowler Tim Southee.

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs India: 1st Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 & 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Karnataka takes first-innings lead despite Paliwal's ton

The Services skipper, ably supported by Rahul Singh, threatened to take the visitors past the Karnataka total; hosts in a comfortable position at the end of the third day's play

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Services skipper Rajat Paliwal came good with a fine century, but it was not enough to deny Karnataka the crucial first-innings lead, on the third day of their Ranji Trophy encounter at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The seventh-wicket pair of Paliwal (124, 217b, 14x4) and Rahul Singh (36, 108b, 5x4) threatened to take Services past Karnataka's total of 304. Paliwal's dismissal with the team score on 237 turned the tide in Karnataka's favour. Paliwal was taken at slip by Nikin Jose, but the batter indicated to the umpires and teammates that the catch was taken on the bounce.

Rahul's exit a few overs later was the end of the road for Services.

In the second essay, the home team moved to 90 for no loss, an overall lead of 133 runs.

Karnataka sits in a comfortable position despite an average show.

Paliwal and Rahul faced little trouble playing out the overs, as the Karnataka bowlers – barring pacer Vidwath Kaverappa – failed to land it consistently in the right areas.

Overnight batter Ravi Chauhan was also put down, by wicketkeeper B.R. Sharath.

Captain Mayank Agarwal faced embarrassment when he fluffed an easy skier at cover.

Umpires in focus

Umpire Rajeev Godara did not inspire confidence when he gave the marching orders to Paliwal and Pulkit Narang. On both occasions, Godara made delayed decisions, which may have led the batters to believe that he yielded to long, forceful appeals from Karnataka.

Godara and his partner C. Shamshuddin came into focus when they decided to stop play, citing bad light when the evening sun shone bright.

The Karnataka openers Mayank and R. Samarth – keen to bat on – stuck around even as the Services players exited the field.

In vain: Services fell short of Karnataka's first-innings score despite Paliwal's century. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The scores:
Karnataka — 1st innings: 304.
Services — 1st innings: Shubham Rohilla c Jose b Kaverappa 8, Ravi Chauhan c Agarwal b Gowtham 56, Rahul Singh b Kaverappa 0, Aanshul Gupta c Sharath b Kaverappa 0, Rajat Paliwal c Jose b Shreyas 124, Devender Lohchab c Shreyas b Vyshak 6, Pulkit Narang c Sharath b Kaverappa 10, Rahul Singh b Sharath b More 36, Diwesh Pathania lbw More 11, Arpit Guleria (not out) 7, Nishan Singh b More 0; Extras (lb-2, w-1): 3; Total (in 83.2 overs): 261.

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-8, 3-12, 4-78, 5-134, 6-157, 7-237, 8-252, 9-261.

Services bowling: Kaverappa 21-4-64-4, Vyshak 16-1-63-1, More 16.2-3-54-3, Gowtham 19-2-39-1, Shreyas Gopal 11-0-39-1.

Karnataka — 2nd innings: R. Samarth (batting) 40, Mayank Agarwal (batting) 47; Extras (b-1, w-1, nb-1): 3; Total (for no loss in 25 overs): 90.

Services bowling: Diwesh Pathania 5-0-31-0, Nishan Singh 5-2-7-0, Arpit Guleria 7-1-24-0, Pulkit Narang 8-1-27-0.

RANJI SCORES - ROUND 1, DAY 3

Elite: Group A: Uttarakhand 282 & 127/1 in 30 overs (Priyanshu Khanduri 52 batting) vs. Nagaland 389 in 154.1 overs (Yugandhar Singh 73, Shrikant Mundhe 161, Rongsen Jonathan 40, Swapnil Singh 5/47).
Odisha 457 vs Baroda 416/5 in 115 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 63, Pratyush Kumar 44, Shashwat Rawat 135, Priyanshu Moliya 113 batting).
Uttar Pradesh 198 & 227 in 65.3 overs (Rinku Singh 89, Akshdeep Nath 53) vs. Bengal 169 & 156/2 in 42 overs (Koushik Ghosh 69 batting, Anustup Majumdar 44 batting).
Haryana 46 & 323/7 in 112.2 overs (Chaitanya Bishnoi 97, Himanshu Rana 87, Yashu Sharma 42) vs. Himachal Pradesh 487/4 decl.
Group B: Assam 286 & 115/1 in 31.3 overs (Kunal Saikia 55 batting) vs. Saurashtra 492 in 115.1 overs (Harvik Desai 108, Jay Gohil 227, Parth Bhut 49, Riyan Parag 4/119).
Andhra 238 & 131 in 47.4 overs lost to Mumbai 331 in 123 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 45, Armaan Jaffer 116, Ajinkya Rahane 44, Tanush Kotian 63 n.o., Shoaib Md Khan 4/73) & 40/1 in 6.1 overs. Points: Mumbai 6, Andhra 0.
Hyderabad 395 & 28/0 in 8 overs vs. Tamil Nadu 510/4 decl. in 111.5 overs (B. Sai Sudharsan 179, N. Jagadeesan 116, B. Aparajith 115 n.o., B. Indrajith 48).
Delhi 191 & 233/5 in 72 overs (Yash Dhull 57, Nitish Rana 40, Vaibhav Rawal 55, Himmat Singh 67 batting) vs. Maharashtra 324 in 124.5 overs (Naushad Shaikh 45, Azim Kazi 124, Ashay Palkar 100, Simarjeet Singh 4/69).
Group C: Kerala 475 & 60/1 in 15 overs vs. Jharkhand 340 in 105.3 overs (Saurabh Tiwary 97, Ishan Kishan 132, Jalaj Saxena 5/75).
Karnataka 304 & 90/0 in 25 overs (R. Samarth 40 batting, Mayank Agarwal 47 batting) vs. Services 261 in 83.2 overs (Ravi Chauhan 56, Rajat Paliwal 124, Vidwath Kaverappa 4/64).
Chhattisgarh 162 & 184 bt Pondicherry 37 & 177 in 65.3 overs (Neyan Shyam Kangayan 49, K.B. Arun Karthik 55 n.o., Ajay Mandal 6/56). **Points: Chhattisgarh 6, Pondicherry 0.**
Goa 547/9 decl. in 174 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 212, Snehal Kauthankar 59, Arjun Tendulkar 120) vs. Rajasthan 245/6 in 71 overs (Yash Kothari 96, Mahipal Lomror 63, Salman Khan 40).
Group D: Gujarat 271 & 204/6 in 56 overs (Priyank Panchal 79 batting, Karan Patel 46, Manisankar Murasingh 4/71) vs. Tripura 293 in 100 overs (Sridam Paul 57, Sudip Chatterjee 58, Rajat Dey 63).
Punjab 586/4 decl. vs. Chandigarh 310/6 in 119 overs (Arjit Pannu 121, Ankit Kaushik 48, Gaurav Puri 76 batting).
Madhya Pradesh 308 bt Jammu & Kashmir 98 & 193 in 60.5 overs (Sahil Lotra 66, Auqib Nabi 44). Points: MP 7, J&K 0.
Vidarbha 213 & 420/8 decl. in 106 overs (Faiz Fazal 103, Akshay Wadkar 130 n.o., Aditya Sarwate 64) vs. Railways 161 & 47/3 in 21 overs.
Plate: Manipur 186 & 193 in 84 overs (Ronald Longjam 50, Palzor Tamang 5/52, Sumit Singh 4/56) vs. Sikkim 220 & 21/0 in 9 overs.
Arunachal Pradesh 212 & 84 in 29.4 overs (Malay Raj 5/35) lost to Bihar 517 in 133.5 overs (Adhiraj Johri 118, Yashasvi Rishav 65, Sakibul Gani 66, Sachin Kumar 156, Nabam Abo 5/164). **Bihar 7, Arunachal 0.**
Mizoram 252 & 216 in 80.3 overs (Taruwar Kohli 40, Shreevats Goswami 64, Rajesh Bishnoi 5/61) vs. Meghalaya 171 & 75/3 in 32 overs (Kishan Lyngdoh 40).

Yuki, Ymer in qualifying draw

Sports Bureau

Yuki Bhambri and Elias Ymer will battle it out in the singles qualifiers of the fifth edition of the Tata Open Maharashtra as the qualifying draw features a highly competitive field with the cut-off standing at a stiff 243.

The Tata Open Maharashtra will be held at the Balewadi Stadium in Pune from December 31 to January 7. "It's always good to see an Indian name in the line-up because that's our main objective of conducting such a big tournament is to inspire and increase Indian participation," said Prashant Sutar, tournament director, Tata Open Maharashtra.

The qualifiers will have 16 players, including two wild card entrants, fighting for four main draw spots.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Navin Sundaram surprises Aarav Chawla, enters semifinals

Unseeded Navin Sundaram upset third-seed Aarav Chawla 6-4, 7-6(6) in the boys' quarterfinals of the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis (KSLTA) ATF Junior Tour 22 (Under-14) tournament here on Thursday.

The results (quarterfinals):
Boys: Levin Safoor bt Om Verma 5-7, 6-1, 6-1.
Navin Sundaram bt Aarav Chawla 6-4, 7-6(6).
Prakaash Sarran bt Tej Oak 6-1, 6-2.
Showrya Samala bt Rudra Batham 6-3, 6-3.
Girls: Maaya Rajeshwaran bt Kashvi Sunil 6-3, 6-5 (retd.).
Anvi Punaganti bt Srishti Kiran 6-0, 6-3; Diya Ramesh bt G.D. Meghana 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.
Haritha Shree bt Aradhyaa Verma 6-0, 6-1.

Om Sunil reigns in 800m in inter-collegiate athletics

Om Sunil Chavan won the men's 800m event in the 57th Bangalore University inte- collegiate athletic meet here.

The results (winners):
Men:
800m: Om Sunil Chavan (Soundarya Institute of Management & Science), 1:59.91s.
Discus: Muttappa (Soundarya Institute of Management & Science), 31.55m.
High jump: T.S. Suman (University College of Physical Education), 1.78m.
Women:
800m: Nitu Kumari (Surana College), 2:26.8s.
Long jump: M. Aishwarya (NMKRV) 3.97m.

Odisha, ATK MB fail in goalless draw

ISL-9

Press Trust of India
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha FC remained unbeaten at home as they played out a goalless draw against ATK Mohun Bagan in an Indian Super League (ISL) Season 9 match here on Thursday.

This was the first goalless draw of the ISL 2022-23 season.